

Hafa Adai!

Kilili joins call for \$86B funding for broadband internet. **PAGE 3**  
 ROTC awards 90K scholarships to 3 NMC students. **PAGE 11**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune

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## WITH 3 NEW POSITIVE COVID-19 CASES NMI tally of positives now at 26

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 4, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	177	2	179
Recovered	151	11	162
Active	21	2	12
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			6,727

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	23	3	26
Recovered	16	0	16
Active	5	3	8
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**			6,695

\*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

\*\*Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Guam has a total of 11 recoveries, bringing the total to 162 recoveries. At the same time, two more active cases were identified, bringing the total to 12 active cases. The CNMI tallied three more COVID-19 cases, making it the first biggest single-day spike in the CNMI.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By JUSTINE NAUTA  
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 REPORTER

The CNMI's total confirmed COVID-19 cases have gone from 23 to 26.

In an announcement yesterday by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., it said that three more persons in the CNMI have been confirmed to have COVID-19.

One is a 39-year-old female who is asymptomatic, which means she does not have any symptoms. The individual is currently in isolation.

See TALLY on Page 4

### CW workers can try to apply for PUA

By BEA CABRERA  
 beacabersa@saipantribune.com  
 CORRESPONDENT

With no definite word yet from the U.S. Department of Labor whether legal foreign workers

in the CNMI can avail of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente is still encouraging these workers to apply for this assistance.

Speaking at the first virtual general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce last

See CW on Page 4



Benavente



### ANOTHER PRICE INCREASE

Gas prices went up again by 15 cents yesterday, making it the third such increase in gas prices in the CNMI in the last two months.

KRIZEL TUAZON

### IN ITS BID TO SUSPEND EXECUTING \$6.9M JUDGMENT IPI motion is denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
 ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied yesterday Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's motion to stay or suspend execution of the court's \$6.9-million judgment in favor of IPI's

See IPI on Page 4

### DOT notifies CPA of suspension of Chinese flights

» King-Hinds says CPA, Torres working to raise concerns due to expected adverse impact on CNMI economy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
 ferdie\_deltorre@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has received the U.S. Department of Transportation's notification and order that dis-

approves the resumption of flights by Chinese airlines into and out of the CNMI, according to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds yesterday.

DOT ordered on Wednesday

See DOT on Page 4



King-Hinds

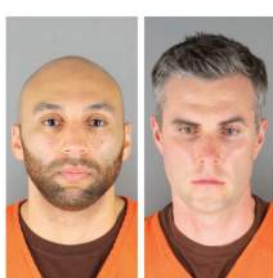
### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

In his business of running Island Touch, Philip Canuto needs to be creative all the time.

PAGE 15



#### NATION

Prosecutors charged three more police officers Wednesday in the death of George Floyd.

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#### ASIA

The U.N. human rights office denounces human rights violations in the Philippines.

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# Local

## Tebuteb says \$22.75M grant now available for drawdown

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The \$22.76-million grant that the Commonwealth Ports Authority received from the Federal Aviation Administration through the CARES Act is now available for drawdown, according to CPA board's Financial Affairs Committee chair Ramon Tebuteb.

In his report during a committee's meeting last Wednesday, Tebuteb said the \$22.75-million CARES Act funding is provided on a reimbursement basis, and CPA will draw down funds as expended. He said it's been available since May 27, 2020.

CPA received the grant offer last April and the grant agreement was executed in May, according Tebuteb at the meeting held at the Aircraft and Fire Fighting classroom at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The grant has a four-year performance

period and is available at 100% federal share. The funds can be used for any purpose where airport revenues may be lawfully used.

At the same meeting, CPA board chair Kimberlyn-King Hinds urged the CPA management to prepare for this year's typhoon season. She asked the CPA team to put together an immediate list of priorities outside of what they are currently working on.

"Typhoon season is upon us and to a great extent we still have not fully recovered from Super Typhoon Yutu," she said in a later interview by reporters.

She said CPA is still waiting to draw down their funds—whether it be insurance funds or Federal Emergency Management Agency funding, or others—to begin addressing some of the issues at CPA.

She acknowledged that the CPA team has already started

preparing for the typhoon season with its repairs of the leaking roof at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

To date, CPA has received a total of \$15 million as part of the advance for the Typhoon Yutu insurance settlement, Tebuteb said. As per CPA's Bond Indenture, Tebuteb said, CPA is required to deposit the insurance funds and that CPA will need to provide certain documents such as project proposals and certified invoices.

On Oct. 27, 2018, CPA issued four emergency notices and emergency expenditure of funds due to Yutu for the Saipan airport in the amount of \$2,910,000; Port of Saipan, \$300,000; Tinian International Airport, \$300,000, and Port of Tinian, \$200,000.

As of May 27, 2020, Super Typhoon Yutu expenditures at the Saipan airport now total \$2,846,018; Port of Saipan, \$131,371; Tinian International Airport, \$282,617; and Port of Tinian, \$14,820, Tebuteb said.



Tebuteb

# *Congratulations!* Class of 2020 GRADUATES

It goes without saying that graduation is the most important milestone in a student's life. Although we are unable to have the traditional graduation ceremony this year, it should not stop us from congratulating our 2020 graduates for their hard work and accomplishments. Each and every one of you have earned it and we are all very proud of you. The feeling of uncertainty can be scary and the current situation challenges all of us, but no matter what direction you are headed to, never be afraid to dream big and remember that the new future is yours to take. Always keep in mind that everything will eventually bounce back.

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the parents, families, friends, educators, and faculties who have given guidance and support for our students.

Warmest congratulations to all the graduates of 2020! Please stay safe.



**DAVID M. APATANG**  
Mayor of Saipan  
and Staff





# Kilili joins call for \$86B funding for broadband internet

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

With social distancing a dominant feature of the “new normal,” people have become

more dependent on the internet for work, school, and play. That means a higher demand for faster internet speeds and more reliable networks.

Recognizing this need, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), along with 82 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives, urged congressional leaders to appropriate at least \$86 million for broadband infrastructure in future stimulus bills.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of reliable internet to stay informed, connect with

family and friends, and engage in distance learning, telework and tele-health,” Sablan said.

In the CNMI, employees are encouraged to work from home, and use online video conference apps for meetings; government offices have implemented online services and portals; schools have transitioned to e-learning; health centers have started doing telemedicine; and restaurants and grocery stores have launched online services. All these activities have increased the islands’ need for better broadband connectivity.

Lawmakers are specifically asked for more funding for the expansion of the E-Rate educational connectivity program to help schools connect students who do not have internet at home, or even digital equipment.

In their letter to congressional leaders, the lawmakers pointed that the COVID-19 pandemic has made it increasingly clear that having access to high-speed broadband is a necessity, and that it is a must to invest in expanding affordable and reliable high-speed internet access in the next emergency relief package.

“We asked for support to provide broadband to low-income consumers. Like the rural electrification program in the last century, bringing broadband to all areas of our nation will help ensure the health and economic welfare of Americans everywhere,” Sablan added.

In a separate interview, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expressed support for the action. “Anytime that we have movements like this and actions by [Congress] to provide better services, especially access to internet for all of our students, I support it,” Torres said.

## DCCA to roll out Expanded Home Care program to help with child care needs

Working families need child care but, in the CNMI, private child care providers will have to wait longer before they can reopen.

As the government resumes operations, businesses slowly reopen, and, with schools being out, many parents are now having to juggle time between work and home, to perform their work duties while attending to the needs of their children. At the moment, private child care providers remain close and are waiting for a memo from the Child Care Licensing Program and the Child Care and Development Fund Program, both under Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, to reopen.

“The reality is, private child care providers are not going to be opening until the tail-end of this crisis, when we know it’s absolutely safe to have young kids congregate,” DCCA Secretary Robert Hunter said.

“Child care is kind of a complex issue because there really is no social distancing with infants to 6-year-olds. You can separate spaces for seats and do a whole range of things but kids are kids. You can’t keep them 6 [or] 8 feet apart all day long every day.”

DCCA has been meeting

with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, as well as with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to come up with protocols for different situations.

Hunter added that DCCA has a Relative Care program in place, to help remedy some of the parents’ needs in terms of child care.

“We have Relative Care in place, that’s the grandmother, the aunt, or whoever else that’s a relative to take care of one or two or three children in the house, and we’re supporting that with some financial assistance,” he said.

DCCA is also working with CDC on an Expanded Home Care program, which they expect to roll out within the next few weeks. According to Hunter, Expanded Home Care might also help those who have lost their jobs or have been furloughed.

“They would be able to take care of a particular number of children within their household, depending on the size, and we’ll have all the health and safety measures in place at every house that participates in that. There will be smaller numbers of kids in residential homes,” he said. *(Iva Maurin)*

## Another company is suing IPI

Another company issuing casino operator Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in federal court, this time for alleged non-payment of consulting services in an amount over \$300,000 plus interest.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated Wednesday the hearing on IPI’s motion to stay or suspend execution of the court’s \$6.9-million judgment in favor of IPI’s former contractor, Pacific Rim Land Development LLC, pending resolution of IPI’s appeal of that ruling. Manglona was supposed to hear the motion yesterday, Thursday. Manglona said she will not entertain oral argument and will issue a decision based on the parties’ briefs.

J.M. Aquino P.C., through counsel Mark A. Scoggins, sued IPI on Wednesday for breach of agreement and unjust enrichment. As of press time Wednesday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting comments from IPI about the new lawsuit.

J.M. Aquino asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to direct IPI to proceed with arbitration with the company and to hold IPI liable to pay damages in amount to be proven at trial,

attorney’s fees, and court costs.

According to Scoggins in the complaint, J.M. Aquino entered into an agreement with IPI in June 2016 to provide super-structural inspection services for IPI’s casino project in Garapan. Scoggins said IPI breached the first agreement by failing to pay amounts owed in excess of \$75,000.

In November 2016, Scoggins said, J.M. Aquino was hired to perform consulting services to IPI related to signals, roadways, and water quality at IPI’s resort construction. He said IPI has failed to pay amounts owed under the second agreement in an amount in excess of \$75,000.

Scoggins said J.M. Aquino has demanded an arbitration, but IPI has ignored this demand.

In Pacific Rim’s lawsuit, it obtained last April 27 a judgment for breach of contract in excess of \$6.8 million against IPI and may begin executing on the judgment last Tuesday, May 26.

IPI, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, said if Pacific Rim is allowed to do that, IPI will not be able to pay its employees or taxes. IPI currently has 1,066 employees, mostly working on the construction of its hotel. *(Ferdie De La Torre)*

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## CW

From Page 1

Wednesday, Benavente said that, at this point, U.S. citizens and qualified aliens such as green card holders and people with "Employment Authorization Document" are eligible to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance.

"We have asked the U.S. Depart-

ment of Labor as to the eligibility CW-1 workers for PUA and there is no official statement yet," she said. "...But again, we encourage everyone to apply for PUA and then we will see from there who will qualify."

To register for PUA, business owners and employers must first register at [www.hiremarianas.com](http://www.hiremarianas.com). According to Benavente, since they opened the portal last May 26, some 400 employers have already registered.

"That's a good number because every quarter, the CNMI receives about 900 quarterly submissions of compliance documents and so we are about halfway through the list of employers that we have in our system," she said.

"We encourage all employers, whether business is open or not today, to register so we can have you on line. This system will also be used to help our job applicants to re-enter the

workforce once we open businesses completely. ...It will be open as soon as we get the funding from USDOL very soon," she added.

PUA, as established by the CARES Act, provides cash benefits to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted as a direct cause of the COVID-19 pandemic.

To register for PUA purposes is simple. Step 1 is for employers to register to provide information about business and representative (if any) and create a user account or username and password; Step 2 is "Employer Verification" where CNMI DOL will ask you to submit your business license and W9 Tax Forms; and Step 3 is "Separation Notices" where employers will be asked about their employees that were separated, furloughed, have reduced working hours, or terminated.

Benavente said that her office is

committed to making the PUA available and accessible to everyone. "The Labor Department have been undergoing trainings and clinics since April. The clinics were on case adjudication, benefit payment control, appeals and federal reporting training. This is so because the CNMI does not have an unemployment insurance program and we have to start from scratch," she said.

"We received our notice of award from the U.S. administrator for USDOL just a few days ago and we are hoping that the money for PUA and Federal Unemployment Compensation will be transferred to CNMI very soon," she added.

For more information, hotlines are (670) 989-9080, (670) 989-9081, (670) 898-99083, (670) 989-9084, (670) 989-9089 (670), 989-9090, (670) 989-9093, and (670) 989-9095 (fraud hotline) and are available from 8am to 12 pm. Email is [info@pua-marianas.com](mailto:info@pua-marianas.com).



## SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The CNMI Senate passed senate resolutions 21-14 and 21-15 yesterday to honor and pay tribute to the lives and works of the late Jose R. Lifofoi and the late former governor Froilan Cruz Tenorio. First photo shows the family of Tenorio posing with senators after being presented the resolution. Second photo shows the family of Lifofoi and senators.

IVA MAURIN

## TALLY

From Page 1

tion at Kanoa Resort in Susupe, and is being monitored by CHCC.

According to the task force's statement, the individual was identified through community-based testing and confirmed positive at the Commonwealth Health Center laboratory on June 3.

"At the time, the patient's exposure to the virus is unknown. CHCC's contact tracing teams are looking into the possibility of exposure through community spread of COVID-19," said the statement.

Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, stated that the other

two cases are "travelers." However, they are not from the same flight as the 30-year-old female who tested positive last June 2. Muña declined to disclose more information on the two cases.

To date, the CNMI has a total of 26 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with eight active cases, 16 recoveries, and two deaths.

Since this is a rapidly evolving situation, CHCC assured that it will continue to update the community.

Additionally, the COVID-19 Task Force advises the community to avoid spreading misinformation by sharing only official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

## COVID-19 in Guam

The Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam confirmed another positive case of COVID-19 last June 3. According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, this case was identified through community testing and did not report contact to a confirmed case.

An additional case was reported yesterday from the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority. The case recently traveled and was identified while staying in a government quarantine facility. The case tested positive at GMHA.

To date, Guam has 179 cases confirmed COVID-19 cases, with five deaths, 162 released from isolation, and 12 active cases.

lines, and China Eastern Airlines. She said these three airlines serve as the CNMI's direct airbridges to the China tourist market.

"This action by DOT will have a particularized impact to CPA, given the significant amount of revenues that these routes represent in our operating budget," she said.

King-Hinds said CPA is currently working with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to "parse" the language in the no-

tification and raise concerns to DOT, given the expected adverse economic impact of the decision on CPA and the Commonwealth.

DOT's action takes effect on June 16.

DOT had said in a statement that U.S. carriers have asked to resume passenger service beginning June 1, and that the Chinese government's failure to approve their requests is a violation of their Air Transport Agreement.

## IPI

From Page 1

former contractor pending a resolution of IPI's appeal of that ruling.

Manglona said IPI has not posted a bond or demonstrated that its proffered security will adequately protect Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's rights as judgment creditor.

When asked for comments, IPI counsel Michael W. Dotts said IPI disagrees with the judge's decision and that the company will now ask the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to grant the stay.

Dotts said the rules require a defendant to ask the lower court first before asking the appeals court. "IPI has satisfied the rule and will file its motion to the Ninth Circuit for a stay early next week. Hopefully, the Ninth Circuit will grant the stay," he added.

Dotts said Manglona did raise some good points in her order—that there is no guarantee that the property will not lose value while the appeal is pending.

Dotts said the appeal could take several years. "However, we think the harm that will befall IPI and its employees outweigh the risk of the possible loss of value of the property while the appeal is pursued," he said.

Manglona said Pacific Rim raised legitimate concerns about the alternative security, particularly regarding valuation of the property.

IPI said it cannot post a bond, but states it is willing to provide other security in the form of \$9 million in property leasehold interests. Manglona agreed with Pacific Rim and finds that the \$9 million in leasehold interests would not adequately protect its rights.

The judge said that, although IPI's financial distress may support a finding of harm to it, the precariousness of its financial health also supports a finding that Pacific Rim would be substantially injured if it delays enforcing the judgment.

As to the public interest, Manglona said IPI argues that because it employs many individuals on Saipan, the financial repercussions it will suffer without a stay will spill over into the community. Manglona noted that IPI has offered no evidence that

it will not have to lay off employees even if granted a stay, as its financial woes clearly predate the judgment in this case.

Manglona rejected the implication that IPI should be able to avoid the legal consequences of its actions due to its size. "IPI is trying to dictate which employees to pay to complete its project while disregarding its legal obligations to a contractor for services rendered," she said.

Manglona agreed with Pacific Rim that the public interest lies with the uniform application of the law to all members of the community.

IPI, through Dotts, said if Pacific Rim starts executing the \$6.9-million judgment, it will not be able to make payroll for its employees or pay taxes.

IPI currently has 1,066 employees mostly working on the construction of its hotel.

Pacific Rim obtained last April 27 a judgment for breach of the promissory note claim in excess of \$6.8 million against IPI and may begin executing on the judgment last Tuesday, May 26. Last week, U.S. District Court for the NMI clerk of court Heather L. Kennedy amended the judgment, increasing the amount to \$6,909,333, including interests and costs.

IPI has appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit to reverse the judgment, but lacks the ability to pay for a bond. Dotts said IPI has identified about \$9 million worth of real property leases that it can mortgage to Pacific Rim to secure payment of the judgment pending appeal. IPI asked the court to be allowed a stay of proceedings pending appeal.

Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin Thompson, recently filed an application for writ of execution before the federal court that will direct the U.S. Marshal to seize IPI's money from several banks in an amount not to exceed \$5,650,000.

Pacific Rims claims that IPI owes payment for the work that it did on the casino/resort project.

IPI has filed counterclaims against Pacific Rim for promissory fraud, fraud in the inducement as to the promissory note, violation of Consumer Protection Act, and breach of contract.



**VOX POPULI:**

# 1st batch of Million Dollar scholars graduate

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

We asked 2020 college graduates who are the first batch of students from the Million Dollar Scholarship program of Kagman High School what they studied off-island and what inspired them to take that course. Here's what they have to say:

"I decided to pursue a degree in Economics because I wanted to better understand behavior and decision-making supported by quantitative evidence. ...I hope to use economic tools for the analysis of public policy and public health-related issues. I would like to thank my parents, Emma and Manuel Cabrera, my high school mentors, Mr. Gerard VanGils and Mr. Peter Aldan, and my college advisors, Dr. Pablo Hernandez and Dr. Casimir Dadak."

—**Josepha Cabrera, 22, BA in Economics and Business with a finance concentration, Hollins University, Papago**

"I've always been passionate about education. Many people, especially my village, knows that about me. It truly 'takes a village to raise a child.' Growing up, I've had many life-changing encounters with educators that I'll soon be lucky enough to work with and create life-changing experiences of my own. Our culture thrives on giving back to our family, friends, community, islands—and obtaining this degree assures me that I'm now equipped to do just that. Special thanks to my mother and father, Rosie and Louie Bautista, Louie Dean (brother), Suzilyn (niece), Cassey Babauta and Karen Laoyan (fellow MD\$ members), USU Aggie family, former students (practicum teaching experiences), extended family and friends."

—**Lilly Jean Bautista, 21, BS in Elementary Education with emphasis in American Sign Language, Utah State University, Kagman**

"My inspiration comes from a long line of professors from

## NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Autumn Justyne Camacho, who is graduating with the Class of 2020 from Del Campo High School in Carmichael, California ("Cougar Pride is Forever!").  
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dixie State University. I was always interested in Criminal Justice but after hearing stories from my professors who were also retired Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, police officers, and even lawyers, it inspired me even more with the experience that they had."

—**Richelle Castro, 22, BS in Criminal Justice, Dixie State University, As Matuis**

"A teacher's impact extends far beyond the classroom. I want to take part in shaping the next generation and give back to the community that raised me. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of my journey, but most especially my parents, Patrick and Valerie Camacho, and my sisters, Veora and Ursalyn."

—**Elizabeth Basa, 21, BS in Multidisciplinary Studies and Elementary Education with an English for Speakers of Other Languages concentration, San Roque**



"I have always been interested in technology and I wanted to learn more about cybersecurity. I was also interested in it because I saw a lack of females in the Information Technology sector and I wanted to challenge myself in a male-dominated field."

—**Jessa Camacho, 21, BS in Information Technology (Cybersecurity) and minor in Digital Forensics, Central Washington University, San Roque**

"I decided to pursue this degree because of my interest in this field. I find leadership is something that's needed in many aspects. With the specialization that I chose, I was able to attain skills through that field to further help me in the job that I want to do in the future, which is to work at a university institute and advise and help minority students complete higher education. I look forward to furthering my studies by getting a master's degree in



Communication. I would like to thank my parents, Julie and Arnold Arellano."

—**Allison Arellano, 22, BS in Communication Studies with an Emphasis in Applied Leadership, Dixie State University, San Roque**



"I was majoring in Medical Laboratory Science, but I was not enjoying it and found it too difficult. I was recommended to take a digital forensics class in Criminal Justice department and things just clicked. It was easy, and more interesting to me."

—**Viron Tenorio, 22, Criminal Justice emphasis in Digital Forensics, Dixie State University, Kagman**

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# JKPL offers Package-to-Go for summer reading

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will provide its clients a Package-to-Go for the summer to promote science- and math-related activities, allow readers to explore new authors and genres, and discover the different types of materials the library has to offer.

This year summer reading theme is “Imagine your story.” The Package-to-Go will be distributed on June 30, 2020, to the first 500 registered participants.

Each Package-to-Go includes books, activities, and supplies. The program is free and open to all ages. Registration is open from June 9 to June 19. You may contact the library at 235-7322 or 7323(READ) to register.

- Before you register you may need:
- JKPL card number ready for children ages 6 years of age and older. Parents/guardians are encouraged to use their library card to register children ages 0 years to 5 years
  - Name and age/date or birth of participating family member
  - Village
  - Contact number
  - Email(optional)
- “Families are encouraged to register and take this opportunity to engage in amazing learning adventures with

the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. ...Community members, businesses, and government agencies who would like to sponsor JKPL’s Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go are encouraged to contact at 235-7316 or 7323 or 7322,” said the library in a statement. *(Chevy Alipio)*

# 3-day power interruptions set

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be a scheduled power interruption on the following date, time and location:

■ **June 9 and 11, 2020, from 8:30am to 12:30pm**

□ Outage Type: Sectionalized power outage for Kiya 2

□ Project location: Tottotville. Koblervi lle

□ Power service area(s) affected: Tottotville

□ Water well(s) affected: None

□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: A-12

The purpose of this power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace rusted power pole hardware on 27 primary power poles within the affected areas.

■ **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, from 8:30am to 12:30pm**

□ Outage Type: Sectionalized power outage for Kiya 2

□ Project location: Koblerville

□ Power service area(s) affected: Koblerville (Tinaktak Drive, Potu Ct., As Gonno Road and As Gonno)

□ Water well(s) affected: None


□ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

The purpose of the scheduled power interruption is to de-energize utility lines such that CUC linemen are able to safely replace a rotted 3-phase primary power pole on the Kiya 2 distribution circuit in Koblerville.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate


routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). *(PR)*



**DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan  
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315  
[www.dcrm.gov.mp](http://www.dcrm.gov.mp)



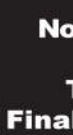

# NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of June 5, 2020



THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc.	05/14/2020 SLR-2020-X-047	Windsurfing, Stand Up Paddle, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	VOID
2. Windsurfing Saipan, Inc.	05/14/2020 SLR-2018-X-118-R3	Windsurfing, Stand Up Paddle, Boarding, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Lagoon Areas fronting Hyatt Regency, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/21/2020
3. Micronesia Resort Inc. dba Kensington Hotel	05/19/2020 SLR-2018-X-185-R3	Hobie Cat Sailing, Kayaking, Snorkeling, & Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Lagoon Area Fronting Kensington Hotel, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/28/2020
4. Heinz S. Hofschneider	05/19/2020 SPL-2020-X-049	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 05/26/2020
5. Phoenix Enterprises Inc.	05/20/2020 SLR-2018-X-114-R3	Hobie Cat Sailing & Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
6. Aqua Connections, Inc.	05/21/2020 STLR-2018-X-067-R3	Scuba Diving & Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 5/29/2020
7. HiFive Co., Ltd.	05/21/2020 SLR-2018-X-115-R3	Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites on Mañagaha & Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 05/29/2020
8. Saipan Diving World, Inc.	05/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-087-R3	Scuba Diving	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
9. Katarina Saipan 1 LLC.	05/26/2020 SLR-2019-X-036-R2	Scuba Diving	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
10. Deep Blue Sea Corp	05/26/2020 STLR-2018-X-089-R3	Scuba Diving	All Diving Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
11. Advance Marine Saipan Corporation	05/27/2020 SLR-2018-X-097-R3	Parasailing	Saipan & Mañagaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
12. Naka's Diving Services	05/28/2020 STLR-2018-X-143-R3	Scuba Diving	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
13. World Corporation dba Wave Jungle	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-X-160-R3	Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Windsurfing, & Floaters	Lagoon Fronting Saipan World Resort	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
14. Black Bison Travel Corporation	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-X-117-R3	Snorkeling, Kayaking, Sailing/ Hobie Cat	Grotto, Mañagaha, & Killi Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
15. Ichiban Marine Sports	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-X-079-R3	Banana Boat, Wakeboard, Kayaking, & Snorkeling	Saipan & Mañagaha Lagoon,	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/02/2020
16. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-080-R3	Parasailing Parasailing Zone	Saipan Lagoon, Designated	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
17. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-X-081-R3, Amendment 2020-1	Personal Water Craft & Helmet Diving	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc. dba Big Boy'z II Marine	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-X-120-R3	Banana Boat, Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Snorkeling	Lagoon Areas fronting Fiesta Resort & Mañagaha, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
19. Big Boy Marine Sports, Inc.	05/28/2020 SLR-2018-X-121-R3	Banana Boat, Kayaking, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Snorkeling	Lagoon Areas fronting Kanoa Resort Hotel	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
20. Rubin Corporation dba Rota Scuba Center, Inc.	05/28/2020 RLR-2018-X-0608-R3	Scuba Diving Operations	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/04/2020
21. InterPacific Resorts Saipan Corporation dba Pacific Islands Club	05/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-106-R3	Kayaking, Windsurfing, Sailing, Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Lagoon Areas fronting Pacific Islands Club	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
22. Marianas Trekking LLC	05/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-101-R3	Kayaking, Canoeing, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Boarding	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
23. Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality, Division Of Coastal Resources Management	06/02/2020 SLR-2020-X-051	DCRM Coral Culture Facility	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (\*). The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.



**Notice of Availability of the Mariana Islands Training and Testing Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS**



The U.S. Navy has completed a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts associated with ongoing training and testing activities conducted within the Mariana Islands Training and Testing (MITT) EIS/OEIS Study Area. The completion of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS follows years of research, analysis, stakeholder engagement, and public involvement.

**Proposed Action**

The Navy is proposing to continue training and testing activities within the Study Area at sea and on Farallon de Medinilla. Proposed activities are generally consistent with previously analyzed activities and are similar to those that have occurred in the Study Area for decades.

The Proposed Action is needed to ensure the Navy, other U.S. military services, and the U.S. Coast Guard meet their respective missions, which for the Navy is to maintain, train, and equip combat-ready forces capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining freedom of the seas.

**Public Involvement**

The Navy is committed to keeping the public informed. The Navy obtained public input at several stages and held four public meetings throughout the Mariana Islands. The Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS includes responses to public comments received during the Draft Supplemental EIS/OEIS public review and comment period. In accordance with National Environmental Policy Act regulations, Navy will wait 30 days after publication of the Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS before making a final decision on the action.

**Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS**

The Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS is available to the public beginning June 5, 2020. You can access the document in several ways:

- Visit [www.MITT-EIS.com](http://www.MITT-EIS.com)
- Contact: Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific Attention: MITT Supplemental EIS/OEIS Project Manager 258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100 Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134
- View the document at these locations:

University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Tinian Public Library, or Rota Public Library. Please check with libraries regarding hours of operation and the availability of the document.



**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055  
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com) • Website: [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp)

## REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

### BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION PROJECT NO. CPA-RA-001-20 (AIP PENDING)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Monday through Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. No fee is required for obtaining the package.

Questions regarding this request can be hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office, emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater at [wprater@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:wprater@cpa.gov.mp), or faxed to 670-234-5962, but must be submitted prior to the submission date mentioned below.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. The statements will be evaluated based on the criteria as detailed in the RFQ package.

The qualification statements shall be delivered to CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, by no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020**, Chamorro Standard Time (CHST).

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO  
Executive Director

Date: 6/3/2020



<b>MENS TEE SHIRTS AND POLO SHIRTS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>LADIES DRESSES AND BLOUSES</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>BOYS TEE SHIRTS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>GIRLS BLOUSES AND PANTS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>INFANT DRESSES AND SETS</b>  <b>25% off</b>
<b>LADIES BRAS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>HANDBAGS AND WALLETS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>COMFORTERS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>BATH TOWELS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES</b>  <b>25% off</b>
<b>PLASTIC WARES</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>HANDICRAFTS AND SOUVENIRS</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>BICYCLES</b>  <b>25% off</b>	<b>WATCHES</b>  <b>20% off</b>	<b>SHOES AND SANDALS</b>  <b>20% off</b>

# 2020

## Summertime Early Bird Sale

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, JUNE 6 & 7, 2020

<b>US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20#</b>  <b>\$11<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>BAR-S REGULAR BACON 1#</b>  <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>HOFFY PORTUGUESE SAUSAGE 10oz</b>  <b>\$2<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>	<b>OCTOPUS</b>  <b>\$1<sup>99</sup> /lb.</b>	<b>ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz</b>  <b>\$1<sup>49</sup> ea.</b>
<b>PALM CORNED BEEF 11.5oz</b>  <b>SALE \$3<sup>49</sup> ea.</b>	<b>SUMIRE CALROSE RICE 44#</b>  <b>\$19<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50#</b>  <b>\$27<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>KIKKOMAN SOY SAUCE 1.8 LTR</b>  <b>\$4<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>	<b>JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk</b>  <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>

**MARKET/ORGANIC ITEMS AVAILABLE**

<b>U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ/TRY</b>  <b>\$2<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>MOM 2X COCO ROOS BAG 23.6z</b> <b>MOM COOKIES &amp; CREAM BAG 21z</b> <b>MOM CRL APPLE ZING BAG 24.4oz</b>  <b>\$4<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>	<b>JELLO PUDDING VANILLA 5.1oz</b>  <b>\$1<sup>29</sup> ea.</b>	<b>SPRINGFIELD OIL VEGETABLE 1GAL</b>  <b>\$7<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>	<b>TASTER'S CHOICE REG BLEND 7z</b>  <b>\$8<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>
<b>COFFEE MATE CANISTER KILO 35.3oz</b>  <b>\$6<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>COUNTRY TIME LEMONADE 34qt</b> <b>TANG ORANGE MIX 22qt 72oz</b>  <b>\$7<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>	<b>SUPERSOFT TABLE NAPKINS 500ct</b>  <b>\$3<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>HEFTY FOAM PLATE 8 7/8" FLT100ct</b>  <b>\$4<sup>99</sup></b>	<b>TAKIS XPLOSION 9.9oz</b> <b>TAKIS NITRO 9.9oz</b> <b>TAKIS FUEGO GRANDE 9.9oz</b>  <b>\$1<sup>99</sup> ea.</b>

### Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876  
 Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.  
 WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.  
 PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.







By:   /s/    
Clerk of Court





Grace Christian Academy Board and Administration  
would like to express our warmest

*congratulations*  
to the  
**2020 GCA Graduating Class.**



Princess Luisa Alcantara



Kaydie Claude Aquino



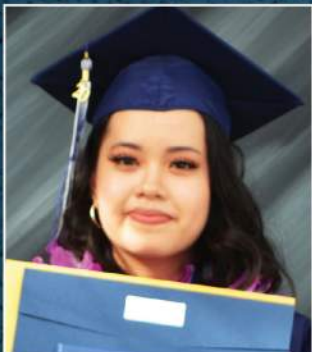
Care Hanako Benitez



Lyzelle Castillo



Arvin Serrano Dayao



YukiAnna Dela Cruz



Jerielle Kim Francisco



Eun Kyung (Alice) Kim



Sejin Kim



Tae Yong Kim



Linda Li Li



Ruo Xuan Li



Calia Mona Lieto



Annika Louise Mafnas



Martin Angelo Pangilinan



Seong Beom (Kevin) Song



Matthew W. Thomas



Lanz Jabez Victoria



Seoyeon (Sunny) Woo



Ao Feng (Louis) Zheng

**We are proud to announce that our graduates have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:**

- |  |                                    |                                   |                                     |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Arizona State University                 | ■ Frost School of Music            | ■ Texas A&M University            | ■ University of the Pacific         |
| ■ Ateneo de Manila University              | ■ Japan University                 | ■ UC Berkeley                     | ■ University of Portland            |
| ■ California State University, Bakersfield | ■ Los Angeles College of Music     | ■ UC Irvine                       | ■ University of San Francisco       |
| ■ Colby College                            | ■ Mission College                  | ■ UC Merced                       | ■ University of Southern California |
| ■ Columbia College Chicago                 | ■ Nevada State College             | ■ University of Colorado Denver   | ■ University of Washington, Seattle |
| ■ Cornish College of the Arts              | ■ Purdue University                | ■ University of Hawaii            | ■ University of Washington, Tacoma  |
| ■ De La Salle University                   | ■ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | ■ University of Nevada, Las Vegas | ■ Virginia Tech                     |
| ■ Emory University                         | ■ San Diego State University       | ■ University of Oregon            | ■ Washington State University       |





## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-20-022

#### S-5 AND S-9 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing S-5 and S-9 sewer lift stations, including the renovation of the existing generator building and wet well with all new piping, fittings, pumps, generator, and other equipment and appurtenance. The project also includes the installation of a new S-5 forcemain and forcemain inlet structure, the relocation of the existing Hyatt Hotel sewer forcemain to an existing sewer manhole on Coral Tree Avenue, the installation of a new S-9 upstream sewer manhole and gravity main crossing route 308. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

**The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.**

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST** be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-022, S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) July 2, 2020, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 22, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer – [nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org](mailto:nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant – [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

# June 7 is Cancer Survivors Day



File photo shows last year's celebration of CNMI Cancer Survivors Day.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This Sunday, June 7, 2020, marks the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual CNMI Cancer Survivors Day Celebration of Life—the day set aside each year to recognize cancer survivors, raise awareness of the ongoing challenges cancer survivors face because of their disease, and celebrate life.

With nearly 17 million people living with and beyond cancer in the U.S. today—and more than 43 million cancer survivors worldwide—everyone knows someone whose life has been touched by cancer. On Sunday, June 7, 2020, people around the world will coming together to acknowledge these cancer survivors, and to raise awareness of the challenges of cancer survivorship, as part of the 33rd Annual National Cancer Survivors Day.

According to Commonwealth Cancer Association executive director Juan Babauta,

“A ‘survivor’ is anyone living with a history of cancer—from the moment of diagnosis through the remainder of life.” “When people hear the words ‘you have cancer,’ it can be very frightening,” said CCA board president Bo Palacios. “But there is hope. Today’s cancer survivors are living longer, with better quality lives than ever before. Commonwealth Cancer Survivors Day gives our survivors—and those who support them—a special day each year to celebrate life and to show the world that you can have a good life after a cancer diagnosis. “CCA is also a call to action. Cancer survivors face ongoing, often long-lasting, hardships because of their disease. On Commonwealth Cancer Survivors Day, we want to raise awareness of the many challenges of cancer survivorship and advocate for further research, more

resources, and increased public awareness to improve the lives of cancer survivors.”

“Everyone with cancer, who’s had cancer in the past, or who knows someone with cancer should have hope,” said Commonwealth Health Center oncologist Dr. Peter Brett. “Although not everyone with cancer can be cured, with today’s care most people with cancer will have an improved quality of life and length of life, and will have a better chance of staying well for longer. With improved treatments, many people who have had cancer will never have it recur or come back. It’s always important to pay attention to healthy behaviors that can help, too, like regular exercise and a healthy diet.” *(PR)*

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



### INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-20-016

#### Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Equipment Supply and Services (Design, Engineering and Supervision - Installation, Testing, Commissioning, Training and Handover) of 1 complete new engine system. Bidders must note that new Cummins engine will replace Cummins engine no. 3 at the CUC Rota Power Plant in the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Island.

The solicitation seeks responses from qualified ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS (OEM's) or ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURE'S AUTHORIZED DISTRIBUTOR from which CUC intends to select one Bidder and enter into a contract agreement for CUC's power supply requirements.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota on **June 4, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to Power Plant No. 1 facility will be conducted. Prospective Bidders shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting their bid.

**One (1) original and five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUCIFB- 20-016" Supply and Services for Installation & Commissioning of One Brand New Cummins Diesel Engine with a Capacity to Generate 2.0 MW"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **June 22, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Submissions, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the IFB. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Bid price must accompany the Bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Bidder due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this IFB should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 5, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address [christie.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:christie.sablan@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bidders for any reason and to waive any defects in said bid package, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO  
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN  
Purchasing Administrator

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE  
MATTER OF  
THE ESTATE OF  
CONCEPCION  
FAISAO TUDELA  
Deceased.

Civil Action No. 20-0116-CV  
NOTICE OF HEARING  
AND NOTICE TO  
CREDITORS  
DATE: June 25, 2020  
TIME: 10:00 am  
JUDGE: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,  
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE  
CONCEPCION FAISAO TUDELA OR HER  
ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Esther Milne has petitioned the Superior Court of Northern Marianas Islands to admit into probate the Last Will and Testament, to issue Letters of Administration and to appoint an Executor for the **ESTATE OF CONCEPCION FAISAO TUDELA**, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya) P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. All interested persons and entities should appear at the hearing.

Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or her Estate are hereby required by the law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claims should also be sent to ROBERT T. TORRES, Attorney at Law, at the above address.

Respectfully submitted this 7th day of April 2020.

/s/  
Clerk of Court / Deputy Clerk

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the  
Petition for the  
Change of Name of: ) FCD CN  
CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 20-0145  
)  
Ramon Mafnas  
Santos  
Petitioner. ) NOTICE OF  
HEARING

**FOR GOOD CAUSE**, noting the evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the demand for judicial services which warrant resuming particular operations to the public, the Court while open to the public, is limiting its operations to urgent hearings and emergencies only. As the Commonwealth continues to reopen, the Court shall continue its efforts to promote social distancing to ensure the safety of the populous.

Therefore, unless an emergency or an urgent matter, **NOTICE** is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set to be addressed by the Court ten (10) days after publication in a newspaper and posting a Notice at the Guma' Hustisia, by Associate Judge **Teresa Kim-Tenorio**. As such, any party with an objection to a Petition for the Change of Name must file their objection(s) in writing, within ten (10) days after publication and posting of this matter.

Dated this 2nd day of June, 2020

Clerk of Court  
Patrick V. Diaz  
/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the  
Petition for the  
Change of Name of: ) FCD CN  
CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 20-0160  
)  
Jeding Takai Matagolai  
Petitioner. ) NOTICE OF  
HEARING

**FOR GOOD CAUSE**, noting the evolving circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and the demand for judicial services which warrant resuming particular operations to the public, the Court while open to the public, is limiting its operations to urgent hearings and emergencies only. As the Commonwealth continues to reopen, the Court shall continue its efforts to promote social distancing to ensure the safety of the populous.

Therefore, unless an emergency or an urgent matter, **NOTICE** is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set to be addressed by the Court ten (10) days after publication in a newspaper and posting a Notice at the Guma' Hustisia, by Associate Judge **Teresa Kim-Tenorio**. As such, any party with an objection to a Petition for the Change of Name must file their objection(s) in writing, within ten (10) days after publication and posting of this matter.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2020

Clerk of Court  
Patrick V. Diaz  
/s/  
By: Deputy Clerk



## ROTC awards 90K scholarships to 3 NMC students

Three cadets of the Northern Marianas College's Reserve Officers Training Corp Program have earned about \$30,000 in scholarships each to continue pursuit of their bachelor's degrees at the University of Guam.

NMC ROTC cadets Gavin Pangelinan, Bert Magallano, and Dan Ryan Tumaquip will all join UoG's ranks as juniors in fall 2020. Pangelinan and Tumaquip earned two-year scholarships to complete their Criminal Justice degrees, and Magallano received a 2.5-year scholarship to complete his degree in Health Sciences.

The scholarships pay either tuition or \$5,000 per semester for room and board, and each scholarship cadet is also authorized an extra \$1,200 per year to pay for their books. Additionally, once the cadets finish their requirements for contracting, which includes passing a physical fitness test, they will receive a stipend of \$420 per month.

LTC Thomas Anderson, the director of the NMC and UoG ROTC programs, said, "The hard work that these three cadets put in at NMC has literally paid off for them. They worked hard in all of their classes at NMC to earn a

good GPA, and they also gave it their all in ROTC to build their leadership skills. Well done and well deserved!"

"These students have worked really hard and are very deserving of the scholarships that have been awarded to them," said Frankie Eliptico, NMC interim president. "We encourage other students who are interested in pursuing a military career to consider the ROTC program at NMC."

In addition to cadets enrolled in the NMC ROTC program, high school students are also eligible to apply for ROTC scholarships to pay for their educational expenses at NMC and UoG, as long as they take either the SAT or ACT.

Anderson said that those high school students who just completed their junior year should schedule now to take the next ACT or SAT test offered. The first ROTC scholarship board for high school students is actually in October of their senior year, but they must take the ACT or SAT in order to be eligible for an ROTC scholarship. NMC cadets who have already taken one semester of college do not need the

ACT or SAT scores.

NMC's ROTC program is the premiere leadership development program in the CNMI, producing dynamic leaders for the CNMI, the Pacific, and the United States. For more information about the ROTC program, visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (NMC)

From left, SROTC/Criminal Justice program coordinator Zerlyn Taimanao, Gavin Pangelinan, Dan Ryan Tumaquip, Bert Magallano, and interim president Frankie Eliptico. NMC



## US Ambassador Yuri Kim to keynote UOG's graduation

The 2020 graduating class of the University of Guam will hear from U.S. Ambassador Yuri Kim, the first U.S. ambassador from Guam and also the first Korean-American woman to be a U.S. ambassador, at UOG's virtual Fañomnåkan Commencement Ceremony on June 18. Kim will address the graduates from her post in Tirana, Albania.

"Ambassador Kim's experience in diplomacy and international relations is so relevant to the global issues we're experiencing today. And having grown up in Guam, she will be a relatable and inspirational role model for our graduates as Guam's next generation of leaders," said UOG president Thomas W. Krise.

Kim immigrated to Guam with her family in 1976 when she was 4 years old and later graduated from the Academy of Our Lady of Guam. She earned a bachelor's from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's from the University of Cambridge (U.K.).

She began her role as the U.S. ambassador to Albania this past January. A career diplomat, Kim has worked on key foreign policy and nation-

al security challenges across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East and was on an American delegation in talks focused on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program.

She has served as the director of the Office of Southern European Affairs in the State Department from 2018-2019, responsible for Turkey, Greece, Cyprus, and the broader Eastern Mediterranean region, and as director of the Office of European Security and Political-Military Affairs, responsible for NATO and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.

She also previously served as chief of staff to the deputy secretary of state, a special assistant to former Secretary of State Colin Powell, and a special assistant to the assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Her overseas assignments have included Turkey, Iraq, South Korea, Japan, and China.

The commencement ceremony will be streamed live at 7pm on June 18, on the University of Guam's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/UniversityofGuam](http://www.facebook.com/UniversityofGuam). (UOG)



Kim

Your life is your story,  
and the adventure ahead of you  
is the journey to fulfill  
your own purpose and potential.

# Congratulations

## Class of 2020

From the management and staff of



**Tan Holdings**  
[www.tanholdings.com](http://www.tanholdings.com)

HEALTH  
IS  
WEALTH

Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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### EDITORIAL

## There is something you can do in response to George Floyd's death: Open a conversation about race

Everyone should be outraged at the death of George Floyd and should join us in asking hard questions and pushing for change.

It should be clear that this country has made strides in recent decades, but it should also be self-evident that more work needs to be done. It is true that legal barriers to equality have fallen. In fact, many of our institutions have altered policies and many are led by people who themselves have suffered the scourge of racism. So there is a desire and an opportunity to do things differently.

We will have more to say about administering our system of criminal justice and of creating the right cultures within governmental institutions in the days and weeks ahead, but right now as we face curfews and grapple with the enormity of the events we are now living through, we would like to suggest pausing to ask an uncomfortable question: Have we really engaged on an individual and family level a thoughtful, inclusive, and open minded discussion about race, about the challenges our history presents and about suffering and grievance so many of our fellow citizens feel or live every day?

To ask the question is to suggest an answer. And here, it might be helpful to suggest many people consider the thoughts of civil rights attorney Bryan Stevenson—the man recently featured in the movie *Just Mercy*. He offers four straightforward pieces of advice when seeking to make a difference: get proximate, change the narrative, stay hopeful, and learn to be uncomfortable.

Are you talking to your family and friends about race and how skin color affects daily life? Have you asked why some of your neighbors are so moved by what they see that they are marching in the streets? Do you acknowledge that their experiences, concerns, and fears are valid? Such conversations are important, and, yeah, sometimes they will be uncomfortable.

We also ask that all people be respectful and listen to one another, no matter one's race or background. If we are unwilling to ask questions that may seem clear to one, yet confusing to another, then we are unwilling to ensure that others can air their thoughts. We need to

See **THERE** on Next Page

## Demanding the justice that leads to peace

I've been searching for something hopeful to latch on to in the week since we watched George Floyd dying on a Minneapolis street, handcuffed and pinned to the ground by a policeman's knee.

But each ray of light I could find wound up with a troubling dark side.

I was encouraged when all four officers involved in Floyd's death were immediately fired. That was a bold move by the city's mayor; a response we haven't seen before. But four days passed before the perpetrating officer was arrested and charged with murder—enough time for cynicism and grief to send angry residents to the streets.

I was optimistic enough to believe that the spread of protests across the country signified a long-overdue national reckoning with the plague of police brutality. But looters and troublemakers hijacked that—and property losses vied for attention with the injustice of Floyd's death.

I was heartened by the multiracial coalitions of young people in California, many wearing masks and trying to socially distance, as they marched with their "Black Lives Matter" signs—and horrified by videos and eyewitness accounts of provocateurs methodically breaking windows and setting fires.

The speed and scale of the public outbursts have offered a dizzying kaleidoscope of images of a nation at war with itself. What you believe may dictate what you see. I mostly see crowds of peaceful protesters being determinedly undermined, where others see only hordes of looters stealing things.

We may each parse the protests differently, but we can't say we weren't warned 28 years ago, when the cops got off for beating Rodney King and giant swaths of Los Angeles burned.

And of all the lessons we might take from the carnage this time, the most important may still be the enduring "No Justice, No Peace."

■ ■ ■

My Nextdoor feed was buzzing for days with rumors of riots and gang members running amok in our suburban enclave. "I heard there is a plan for a Riot this afternoon!! Is this true???" one worried woman posted Monday morning.

That led to lots of back and forth about having guns at the ready in case "thugs" wander into the cul-de-sac. The vitriol was so intense the chastened organizer canceled the protest she'd planned.

I drove by the site not expecting much. My neighborhood is as close to Trump Country as any place in Los Angeles could be. I imagined a few old hippies and bunch of college kids. Instead I found a gloriously diverse display of LA humanity.

They were white and brown and Asian and black; more than

By **SANDY BANKS**

Los Angeles Times

*During more than three decades at the Los Angeles Times, Sandy Banks has served as reporter, editor, editorial writer and internship director.*



350 people crammed onto the small traffic island we call Granada Hills Veterans Park. Most were young, enthusiastic and loud, but there were elderly folks who struggled with the request to kneel and young couples with little kids in tow.

The park's landmark is a bronze statue of a small somber boy holding a folded American flag. There was something powerful about seeing him surrounded by folks of every color demanding that black people be able to enjoy the freedoms that America promises.

And it wasn't just the size and the spirit of the protesters that uplifted me, it was the endless stream of honks and thumbs up from cars that streamed through the busy intersection. And the signs that waved: "Black Lives Matter." "I can't breathe." "We will not change the world by asking nicely."

Officials had prepared for the worst; there were police cars parked along the curb and the shopping center across the street had been shut down, its store windows boarded up.

The officers on duty said folks had been gathering for hours by the time I got there at 3. While I was there, the most substantial order they'd issued was "please stay on the sidewalks, not on the street."

I've lived in this neighborhood for almost 35 years, and what I saw and felt as I surveyed the crowd moved me to tears. I spotted the Girl Scout cookies leader from our local school, a couple of my daughter's college friends, the old couple who used to usher at my church. I don't think I have ever felt such a sense of belonging—of being valuable—in my Northridge community before.

I imagine gatherings like this are going on all across our city. But we only get wind of them when order breaks down. It's so easy to expect the worst of people we imagine are nothing like us.

But I realize now that I live in a neighborhood I only thought I knew. And if these young people can carry forth this new spirit of equality, maybe they can help renew our faith in our stumbling country and communities.

They're demanding the justice that leads to peace.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Congratulations

To all the graduating classe of 2020, congratulations on your achievements. Your journey is replete with surprises, unknowns, knowns, and most of all, your fervent desire to tame this world to be aligned with your aspirations, hopes, and visions. You can do it no matter the obstacles lying in wait for you.

The year 2020 is indeed a unique year for everyone, but especially for you and your family. Who would have thought graduating from school would be via virtual, in front of a computer, maybe in the comfort of your home? But times are a changing, and this experience will make other future challenges easily manageable and almost routine for you.

As graduates of 2020, your vision of the future is superbly clear. The crisis everyone is facing today should not be a setback for you; rather, it should be the greatest lesson you could

possibly get in your lifetime. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused upheaval in how people conduct their affairs, how the economy reacts, and how everyone's perspective of the future has changed. Despite the anxiety, the fear, the uncertainty, the disappointments, the narrowing of what the future holds for everyone, there is one lesson to be taken from the pandemic. It has taught everyone to be unified and, most important of all, to be disciplined. You will survive, you will make it, and you will make the future yours. Always remember that life will shock you with many challenges. Some will be temporary, like the pandemic, while others not. Do not let these things scar you forever. You are ready to take on the world.

To all parents of the graduating classes of 2020, you have done an admirable job of helping your children accomplish a milestone in their journey of life. And to all teachers, your hard work,

By **DAVID M. APATANG**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*David M. Apatang is the mayor of Saipan.*

dedication, and care for your students in fulfilling their graduation requirements is greatly appreciated. You have prepared the graduates well to help each other make this world a better place.

Again, congratulations.

## Police need real reform, a fresh start

Over the weekend, what began as a peaceful protest in Madison, Wis., where I served as chief of police for more than 20 years, erupted in violence. A police vehicle was torched, more than 70 businesses were damaged and in some cases looted, and police deployed tear gas and pepper spray.

Similar unrest has occurred in dozens of cities across the country as citizens have come together to protest the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis.

For me, it felt like being thrown back to an older time.

I was a police officer in Minneapolis on the night of April 4, 1968, after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Plymouth Avenue was set on fire, businesses were looted and anger seethed in the city.

It was a situation I was determined to prevent when I became

Madison's chief of police a few years later, working together with anti-war and civil rights protesters to keep events from becoming violent. It took a lot of work, a lot of good cops and many changes in the police department—many fought aggressively by the department's old guard.

Most police officers, in my experience, are not racists and bullies. Most chose to be cops because they actually want to "serve and protect." But their reputation has been tarnished by the bad cops they have had to work with.

Police are not solely responsible for the systemic inequalities within our society. But they must stop tolerating fellow cops who verbally and physically abuse others.

Floyd's killing by an officer who placed his knee on his neck for nearly nine minutes is just one of many instances in which police have used excessive and often lethal force in dealing with racial minorities, black men in particular.

At the heart of the problem is that we cannot get agreement on the best way to police a diverse, free society. We can't even agree on how police should be trained.

Half of all police academies call themselves "stress-based"—another word for a harassing, bullying, military-style boot camp. Having come out of such environments, many police leaders simply follow a coercive style of management and have no idea of the important concept of "servant leadership."

As I wrote in my book "Arrested Development," there are four obstacles to improving our nation's police: anti-intellectualism (police distancing intellectuals and the importance of data and research); violence (the frequent use of force to solve problems, and excessive uses of deadly force); corruption (false reporting,

By **DAVID C. COUPER**

Tribune News Service



*David C. Couper, chief of police of Madison, Wis., from 1972 to 1993, is now a priest in the Episcopal Church. This column was produced for the Progressive Media Project, which is run by The Progressive magazine, and distributed by Tribune News Service.*

juking statistics and acceptance of "testi-lying"); and discourtesy (disrespecting poor people and citizens of color, a failure to listen).

The present subculture in policing works against improvement efforts, which involve closely working with the community to achieve a goal of safety and order. This contributes to a "them versus us" attitude.

Because policing has for so many years been the realm of white males, there are still vestiges of white supremacy and racism within its ranks.

In 2015, following a series of deadly police shootings, Camden, N.J., rebuilt its police department from scratch, with good results. It involved new training that discouraged the use of force and ways to de-escalate tense situations, as well as the embrace of police body cameras.

Something of this sort—a fresh start—needs to happen in Minneapolis and other departments. It may, in fact, be the only answer.

## THERE

From Page 12

create space where assumptions and judgment are put aside, however hard that may be. It's about developing empathy and understanding.

Racism is a cancer that pervades our society, but it doesn't have to be with us forever. Engaging in a conversation now is one thing each person can do to open their hearts to meaningful change that can eradicate assumptions and beliefs that have fed this cancer for too long.

(c)2020 *The Dallas Morning News*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Mural is more than just about the art

First of all, thank you for the open discussion. I think that while the new Ada Gym mural is beautiful and the quality of the artwork matches the talent and professionalism the artists had to complete the design, a mural that is inclusive of both male and female sexes is a more accurate representation of our community and sends a positive message to our competitors about our values.

Because the design includes the CNMI flag, it represents our culture and the sports included in the design and the placement of the mural on the sports complex are inherently tied to our sports community.

Initially, when first seeing the design circling on social media, I was excited to see a vibrant new take on Luis Ogo's 14-year-old mural. Upon closer look, I noticed there were no female athletes portrayed in the final design layout and took to the platform I saw the design on to voice my concerns. Much to my surprise, I was not the first nor the only person to notice the lack of representation. Because of how fast information spreads, I was fortunate enough to get in contact with the artist and arranged a meeting to talk about our concerns.

During this meeting, the artist and I spoke candidly about the design. He gave me the opportunity to discuss why representation matters. With the Pacific Mini Games being held in the CNMI in 2021 and Ada Gym being the heart of our sporting events in the CNMI, I would think we would want our future competitors and counterparts in the region to look up at the mural and not get the wrong impression. To which he replied, "I'm just contracted to paint the design, you will have to talk to the project manager or the managers of the grant to change the design." At this point, he was kind enough to give me the name and contact information of the project managers.

After having the conversation with the artist, and although he seemed to be listening, I left feeling dismissed for having any opinion at all. And driving home after that I concluded that I would really be doing the female athletes, like myself, a disservice if I left it at that. At that point it was apparent this topic was about so much more than just the mural, but what the mural represents. This compelled me to email the executive director of the Commonwealth Council for Arts. In this email I expressed my background, a CNMI resident, Pacific Century Fellow alumni, and a former CNMI national athlete. I wrote with the utmost respect about how I felt the current message of the new mural did not accurately reflect the values and beliefs commonly shared by the CNMI. I also referenced female athletes who have dedicated their time and efforts toward achieving titles and medals for their accomplishments for the CNMI. What I later realized, and did you know, is less than 23% of the CNMI Sports Hall of Famers are women, which I think is an even more

compelling reason to encourage young or aspiring female athletes to represent the CNMI. I got a response from the CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs secretary who said, "We absolutely agree with your sentiment and have already asked the artists to make the change as immediately as possible." In my excitement I decided to share this news with all of the female athletes who said they felt left out and insulted by the oversight.

In my post I referred to myself as being a "Karen" which by true definition and more commonly known, refers to the social satire about women wanting to speak to a manager. This is precisely what I did by reaching out to CCAC and DCCA. I felt like my actions were necessary and appropriate in safeguarding the perception of our community to the outside athletic world. The lack of a female athlete in the mural could likely have been a design oversight and in no way do I believe this reflects the values or beliefs of anyone involved in the design, project or process. Even I am surprised at the direction this topic has taken on social media. I am pleased with the positive response I've gotten in support of the inclusion of a female athlete in the mural. I apologize if I missed any invitation for public input for the mural, but social media being what it is, I posed the question. When the artist and I spoke about the female athlete, it wasn't only for me, which he seems to imply. In my opinion, it just seems so obviously overlooked. I made it known to the artist that I would gladly help paint and my offer still stands.

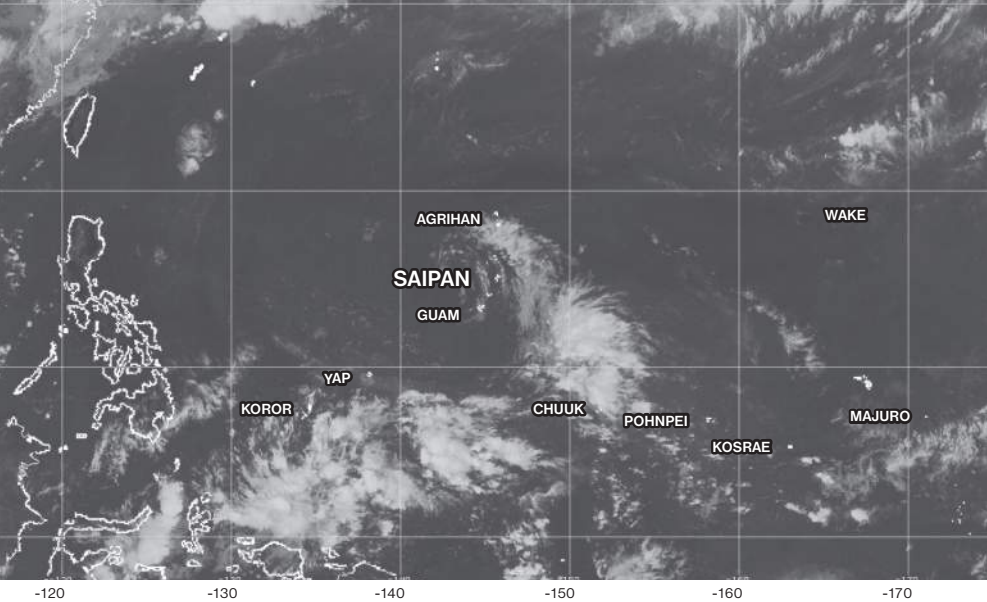
**Lorenza C. Aldan**

*Fina Sisu, Saipan*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Scattered showers for Guam. Isolated showers elsewhere.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms elsewhere.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
88°	78°	89°	78°	89°	79°	89°	79°	89°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:25 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. An upper-level low is evident on satellite just west of Saipan near 15N145E. Buoys show seas between 2 and 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

  - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
  - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

  - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
    - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
    - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

### Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Monday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:59 AM	6:13 PM
Saturday	-	5:52 AM	7:16 PM
Sunday	-	6:48 AM	8:17 PM
Monday	-	7:47 AM	9:14 PM
Tuesday	-	8:45 AM	10:06 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	61° / 52°	
Beijing	Cloudy	88° / 64°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 74°	
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	97° / 82°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	55° / 46°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	82° / 70°	
Paris	Showers	77° / 59°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	81° / 64°	
Rome	Sunny	79° / 57°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 70°	
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 54°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	82° / 64°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	78° / 66°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:51 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19	
6:14 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.23	
1:30 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.25	
8:25 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.12	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	9:00	9:35	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	10:00	10:30	Tues/Fri	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

### NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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### ADVERTISING

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# Business

## Island Touch by Philip always makes celebrations memorable

By **BEA CABRERA**  
becabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

**O**perating Island Touch by Philip located in Chalan Kanoa can be challenging but rewarding, according to operations manager and store namesake Philip Canuto. In his business of running a flower shop and events planning, Canuto needs to be creative all the time, but wearing many hats doesn't

faze him.

"I started the business on May 10, 2013 and like how we started, my shop is everyone's go-to place for fresh or silk flowers for any occasion and special items for gifts... I also do events, big or small, like weddings, birthdays, christening, whatever flower arrangement or event that you have in mind, we can help you," he said.

**For more information, call (670) 235-7445, (670) 285-3545**

"For events, we work with the client from beginning to end, from the planning stage and decorations because I believe every detail



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Island Touch By Philip can turn a simple event into a grand one that will leave happy memories.

counts. We have planned wedding ceremonies, up to of the wedding reception for many clients and at the end of the day

having accomplished beautiful things for clients makes us happy," he added.

For a month, Island Touch By Philip closed due to COVID-19 concerns. "We also didn't have customers or clients coming in so we decided to close down temporarily. Now that we are back, we are giving the same services and practicing social distancing and health and safety protocols at the shop," Canuto said.

"We only allow five people at the same time in the shop. To ensure our clients' safety, we require 6 feet distance between customer and counter, we sanitize common areas in the shop and hand sanitizers



Fresh Flowers can be specially arranged with a personal touch by Island Touch By Philip.

are provided from the moment the customer enters the door and at the counter where we transact business," he added.

Island Touch By Philip is open from Monday to Sunday,

8am-6pm. For more information, call (670) 235-7445, (670) 285-3545, email island-toucsaipan.com., or visit their Facebook page Island Touch By Philip.

## FirstNet expands footprint to Pacific territories

By **JASON PORTER**  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

*Jason Porter is the senior vice president of FirstNet Program at AT&T.*

FirstNet is America's public safety network. That means first responders in all 50 states, five territories, and the District of Columbia are gaining access to the only nationwide, high-speed broadband communications platform dedicated to and purpose-built specifically for them. And that's why I am excited to announce that FirstNet has launched in the three Pacific territories—American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This is equipping firefighters, law enforcement, paramedics, 911 telecommunicators, emergency managers and other public safety personnel with unthrottled access to the interoperable communications they need, no matter the emergency.

By collaborating with local network providers in the region, we've extended the reach of FirstNet to provide first responders in the Pacific territories mobile services with always-on priority and pre-emption capability. And just in time for typhoon season, we are adding three on-island portable cell sites, one per territory, to our FirstNet fleet of dedicated deployable network assets to support public safety agencies in the territories. Just

like the other 76 deployables, these assets are available to FirstNet subscribers at no additional charge for planned and emergency events.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, these FirstNet assets have already helped provide the same reliable communications in the Pacific as in the states. In support of the U.S. Navy/USS *Theodore Roosevelt* in Santa Rita, Guam, a dedicated FirstNet portable cell site was deployed to provide additional coverage. This exemplifies the need and importance of having a network purpose-built for public safety. As America's first responders traverse the country and its territories, they know they can turn to their network for the connectivity they need.

FirstNet is bringing the Pacific territories' public safety community a level of connectivity and advanced capability that's helping to transform the role communications plays in their response. And knowing our first responders have access to the leading tools to help them do their important jobs is something we can all feel good about. FirstNet subscribers in the territories now have access to:

■ FirstNet Ready™ Devices1 and FirstNet promotional offers.

■ Dedicated deployable assets to support public safety agencies.

■ FirstNet Rate Plans2 that are feature rich, affordable and flexible for agencies and individual first responders.

■ Unlimited Talk & Text with no additional roaming or long-distance charges for voice calls and text messages to Domestic U.S., Canada, or Mexico.

■ FirstNet portal for self-service3 to manage user accounts.

■ Dedicated FirstNet Customer Support (24x7x365) to manage all the customers' needs, even after hours.

FirstNet is built with AT&T in public-private partnership with the First Responder Network Authority—an independent government agency. As public safety's communications network partner, we have a responsibility unlike any other network provider. We're helping deliver on the vision of Congress and the first responder community with dedicated, advanced services built to mission-critical standards interoperating across agencies and jurisdictions, and custom apps and devices built for law enforcement, fire and EMS. It's clear FirstNet stands above commercial offerings, and more than 12,000 subscribing public safety agencies and organizations — accounting for over 1.3 million connections—would agree.

First responders and agencies in the territories can request more information by completing the Contact Us form at FirstNet.com, and a dedicated FirstNet sales resource will respond.

To learn more about the FirstNet network, go to FirstNet.com.

## Bank of Hawaii to resume normal operating hours

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—Bank of Hawaii will resume normal (pre-COVID-19) operating hours for its Gualo Rai branch on Saipan and its Kaunakakai Branch on Molokai, Hawaii.

Effective June 8, Bank of Hawaii will restore pre-COVID-19 operating hours for its Gualo Rai branch on Saipan and Kaunakakai branch (at 20B Ala Malama St.) on Molokai.

■ Gualo Rai Branch: *Kūpuna* hour: 9-10am Mondays-Saturdays/General hours: Mondays-Fridays: 10am to 4pm and Saturdays: 10am to 1pm

■ Kaunakakai Branch: *Kūpuna* hour: 9-10am, Mondays-Fridays/General hours: Mondays-Fridays: 10am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm

It also announced it will open three branch locations previously closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective Monday, June 8, the below Oahu branches

Special hour for <i>kūpuna</i> , at-risk individuals and their caregivers: ■ Mondays-Fridays: 8-9am ■ Saturdays: 9-10am General banking hours: ■ Mondays-Fridays: 9am-4pm ■ Saturdays: 10am-1pm	<b>1. Kunia Branch</b> , 94-661 Kupuohi Street, Waipahu
	<b>2. Kaneohe Branch</b> , 45-1001 Kamehameha Hwy, Kaneohe
	<b>3. Temporary Waialae-Kahala Branch</b> , 4211 Waialae Ave., suite 101, at the Kahala Office Building. (Open while the bank's Waialae-Kahala Branch is being renovated.)

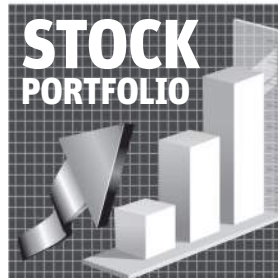
will re-open, and retain the same hours of operation as the rest of its Oahu locations. These branches were selected as part of a phased approach to reopen based on customer needs/trends, and for the ability to effectively social distance for the safety and well-being of Bank of Hawaii's customers and employees.

Re-opened branches will be installed with the same plastic health guards that are in place at other open BOH branch locations. Employees will continue wearing masks,

practice social distancing and queuing customers six feet apart in transaction lines and/or outside of branches for everyone's safety.

Out of its 67 branches, 34 will be open across the state of Hawaii and the West Pacific region, as of June 8.

Bank of Hawaii continues to encourage its customers to sign up for and use its digital banking services via its online, mobile and ATM channels. For more information about this, as well as branch updates, please visit: [www.boh.com/covid19](http://www.boh.com/covid19). (PR)



### LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
3,105.50	26,139.00	9,673.25
-12.25	-89.00	-11.50
-0.39%	-0.34%	-0.12%

In U.S. dollar terms

### EXCHANGE RATES

		Hong Kong Dollar	7.75	Russian Ruble	68.17
Australian Dollar	1.45	Indian Rupee	74.93	Singapore Dollar	1.40
British Pound	0.80	Japanese Yen	109.06	South Korean Won	1,192.42
Canadian Dollar	1.35	Malaysian Ringgit	4.23	Swiss Franc	0.96
Chinese Yuan	7.01	New Zealand Dollar	1.56	Taiwan Dollar	29.36
Euro	0.89	Philippine Peso	48.99	Thailand Baht	31.58



# Nation

## Prosecutors charge 3 more officers in George Floyd's death

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Prosecutors charged three more police officers Wednesday in the death of George Floyd and filed a new, tougher charge against the officer at the center of the case, delivering a victory to protesters who have filled the streets from coast to coast to fight police brutality and racial injustice.

The most serious charge was filed against Derek Chauvin, who was caught on video pressing his knee to Floyd's neck and now must defend himself against an accusation of second-degree murder. The three other officers at the scene were charged for the first time with aiding and abetting second-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

All four were fired last

week. If convicted, they could be sentenced to up to four decades in prison.

Chauvin was initially charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter. Those charges still stand.

The new second-degree murder charge alleges that Chauvin caused Floyd's death without intent while committing another felony, namely third-degree assault. It carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison, compared with a maximum of 25 years for third-degree murder.

The other officers—Thomas Lane, J. Kueng and Tou Thao—face the same maximum penalties for aiding and abetting. All three men were in custody by Wednesday evening. Chauvin was arrested last week and is still

being held.

The multiple charges against each officer would offer a jury more options to find them guilty.

The charges were sought by Minnesota Attorney General Keith Ellison, who called the protests unleashed by the death “dramatic and necessary” and said Floyd “should be here and he is not.”

“His life had value, and we will seek justice,” said Ellison, who cautioned that winning convictions would be hard and said that public pressure had no bearing on his decisions.

Hundreds of protesters were in New York City's Washington Square Park when the charges were announced.

“It's not enough,” protester Jonathan Roldan said, insisting all four officers should have been charged from the

start. “Right now, we're still marching because it's not enough that they got arrested. There needs to be systematic change.”

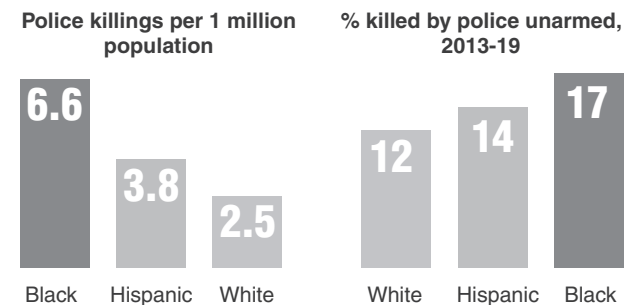
Ben Crump, an attorney for Floyd's family, called it “a bittersweet moment” and “a significant step forward on the road to justice.” Crump said Ellison had told the family he would continue his investigation into Floyd's death and upgrade the charge to first-degree murder if warranted.

The move by prosecutors punctuated an unprecedented week in modern American history, in which largely peaceful protests took place in communities of all sizes but were rocked by bouts of violence, including deadly attacks on officers, rampant thefts and arson in some places.

## The rate African-Americans are killed by the police in the U.S.

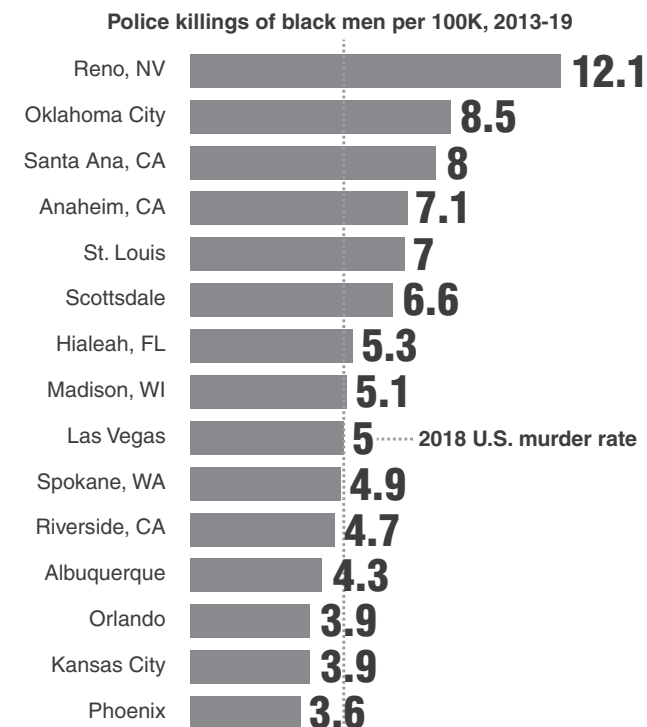
**3X** more likely to be killed by police than white people

**1.3X** more likely to be **unarmed** compared to white people

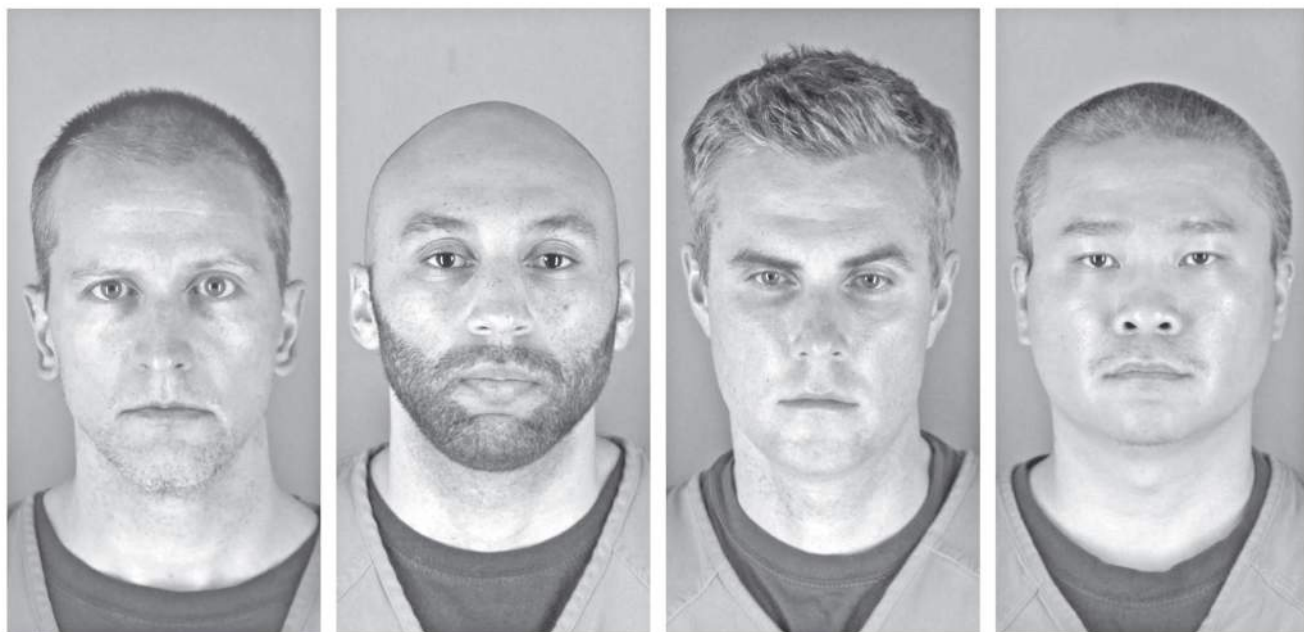


## Where you live matters

**8** of the 100 largest city police departments kill black men at **higher rates** than the U.S. murder rate



Source: mappingpoliceviolence.org  
Graphic: Staff, TNS



AP

This combination of photos provided by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office in Minnesota on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, shows Derek Chauvin, from left, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao.

## Pentagon-Trump clash breaks open over military and protests

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump's Pentagon chief shot down his idea of using troops to quell protests across the United States, then reversed course on pulling part of the 82nd Airborne Division off standby in an extraordinary clash between the U.S. military and its commander in chief.

Both Trump and Defense Secretary Mark Esper also drew stinging, rare public criticism from Trump's first defense secretary, Jim Mattis, in the most public pushback of Trump's presidency from the men he put at the helm of the world's most powerful military.

Mattis' rebuke followed Trump's threats to use the military to “dominate” the streets where Americans are demonstrating following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died when a white police officer pressed his knee into

his neck for several minutes. The president had urged governors to call out the National Guard to contain protests that turned violent and warned that he could send in active duty military forces if they did not.

Esper angered Trump early Wednesday when he said he opposed using military troops for law enforcement, seemingly taking the teeth out of the president's threat to use the Insurrection Act. Esper said the 1807 law should be invoked in the United States “only in the most urgent and dire of situations.” He added, “We are not in one of those situations now.”

After his subsequent visit to the White House, the Pentagon abruptly overturned an earlier decision to send a couple hundred active-duty soldiers home from the Washington, D.C., region, a public sign of the growing tensions with

the White House amid mounting criticism that the Pentagon was being politicized in response to the protests.

Former Secretary Mattis, a retired Marine general, lambasted both Trump and Esper in an essay in The Atlantic Wednesday for their consideration of using the active-duty military in law enforcement — and for the use of the National Guard in clearing out a largely peaceful protest near the White House on Monday evening.

“We must reject any thinking of our cities as a ‘battleground’ that our uniformed military is called upon to ‘dominate,’” Mattis wrote, referencing quotes by Esper and Trump respectively. “Militarizing our response, as we witnessed in Washington, D.C., sets up a conflict — a false conflict — between the military and civilian society.”

## More than 100 charged with looting, assaults in California

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California authorities have charged more than 100 people with looting, assault and other crimes committed during and around protests while police in a San Francisco Bay Area city said Wednesday that a break-in suspect died after being shot by police who mistook his hammer for a gun.

More than 3,000 people have been arrested in Los Angeles County since protests began last week, most accused of curfew violations. The county produced the lion's share of those charged with 61. Sacramento County has filed charges against 43 people and Orange County brought felony cases against two men, accusing one of trying to steal a police car and another of assaulting an officer by throwing rocks and bottles during demonstrations.

Los Angeles District Dis-

trict Attorney Jackie Lacey has been criticized for reluctance to bring charges against police officers for misconduct. At some Los Angeles protests demonstrators have chanted for her to be removed.

She said she supports peaceful protests “that already have brought needed attention to racial inequality throughout our society, including in the criminal justice system” but has a duty to “prosecute people who loot and vandalize our community.”

The charges were in crimes committed during sometimes violent protests and looting last weekend and Monday. Since then there has been much less crime and the demonstrations have taken on a more upbeat atmosphere. Local leaders and police have sometimes taken knees with demonstrators.

NBA stars Steph Curry and Klay Thompson marched

with protesters in Oakland on Wednesday while peaceful protests attracting many thousands were held in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Many other communities had smaller demonstrations.

As flashes of violence and break-ins dwindle, some California counties and cities shortened curfew hours or announced plans to end them.

Los Angeles County pushed back the start of its curfew from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., a help to newly reopened restaurants and retail stores that were shut down for weeks by anti-coronavirus orders.

“It's just killing my dinner service. But I believe the curfew helps thin out the crowds,” said Darren Melamed, owner of Pizza World restaurant that was spared the major damage that hit dozens of neighboring businesses in the Fairfax District.



# Asia

## UN office denounces human rights violations in PH



AP  
In this May 28, 2020, file photo provided by the Malacanang Presidential Photographers Division, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, talks during his speech at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines.

Michelle Bachelet.

"People who use or sell drugs do not lose their human rights," she said.

There was no immediate comment from Duterte or the police. But they have stated in the past that there is no state policy condoning extrajudicial killings in the crackdown. The tough-talking president, however, has repeatedly threatened drug traffickers with death and produced a list of suspects, including local politicians, some of whom were later killed in still-unsolved attacks.

Duterte has also threatened independent investigators looking into the killings and barred them from entering the Philippines.

Ahead of the report, the Philippine diplomatic mission e-mailed a letter from Ambas-

sador Evan Garcia to reporters in Geneva saying his government "has always maintained a positive approach to addressing claims and allegations and investigating claims of violations, on the basis of facts."

It included a May report by the government on human rights in the Philippines. It said that popular support for Duterte and his administration were "inconsistent with the picture of systematic and widespread human rights violations and civil society crackdown being painted of the Philippines in the international community."

An independent poll, however, showed that 76% of Filipinos stated that there were many human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, in the campaign against illegal drugs. The poll also stated that 73% said the number of illegal drug users had fallen since Duterte took office in mid-2016.

The Social Weather Stations surveyed 1,200 people from Dec. 13-16 in a nationwide poll that has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

**GENEVA (AP)**—The U.N. human rights office called on the Philippine government in a new report Thursday to end all violence targeting suspected drug offenders and to disband private and state-backed paramilitary groups.

The U.N. rights office chronicled long-standing concerns about state-backed and vigilante violence in the Philippines under President Rodrigo Duterte, who has particularly drawn domestic and international condemnation

for a deadly crackdown on drug offenders and users.

"A heavy-handed focus on countering national security threats and illegal drugs has resulted in serious human rights violations in the Philippines, including killings and arbitrary detentions, as well as the vilification of dissent," a summary of the report said.

It said many of the human rights concerns "have become more acute in recent years."

The report, requested by the U.N.-backed Human Rights

Council, is based on nearly 900 submissions as well as government input, court and police records, and interviews with victims and witnesses.

It noted that official figures have documented more than 8,663 people have been killed since the government's campaign against illegal drugs began four years ago, "with some estimates putting the real toll at more than triple that number." The Philippine National Police placed the death toll of what officials call

the "drug war" at more than 5,600.

The report also noted killings of and threats against human rights defenders in a country known for a vibrant civil society, and pointed to prosecutions of journalists.

"Unfortunately, the report has documented deep-seated impunity for serious human rights violations, and victims have been deprived of justice for the killings of their loved ones," said U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights

## Wuhan tests 10 million people, finds few virus infections

**BEIJING (AP)**—The Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus was first detected late last year, has tested nearly 10 million people in an unprecedented 19-day campaign to check an entire city.

It identified just 300 positive cases, all of whom had no symptoms. The city found no infections among 1,174 close contacts of the people who tested positive, suggesting they were not spreading the virus easily to others.

That is a potentially encouraging development because of widespread concern that infected people without symptoms could be silent spreaders of the disease.

"It not only makes the people of Wuhan feel at ease, it also increases people's confidence in all of China," Feng Zijian, vice director of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention, told state broadcaster CCTV.

There is no definitive answer yet on the level of risk posed by asymptomatic cases, with anecdotal evidence and studies to date producing conflicting answers.

Wuhan was by far the hardest hit city in China, accounting for more than 80% of the country's deaths, according to government figures.

A city official announced Tuesday that the city completed 9.9 million tests from May 14 to June 1. If those tested previously are included, virtually everyone above the age of 5 in the city of 11 million people has been tested, said Li Lanjuan, a member of a National Health Commission expert team.

"The city of Wuhan is safe," she said at a news conference with city officials.

The campaign was launched after a small cluster of cases was found in a residential compound, sparking con-

cern about a possible second wave of infections as Wuhan emerged from a 2 1/2 month lockdown.

The industrial city on the Yangtze River in central China spent 900 million yuan (about \$125 million) on the tests, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It quoted Executive Deputy Mayor Hu Yabo as saying the cost was "totally worthwhile" to reassure residents, lifting a "psychological lockdown."

Clarence Tam, an assistant professor of public health at the National University of Singapore, called the results reassuring but said more information is needed about the value of this kind of mass screening when the risk is already low.

He noted that the tests, while generally accurate, sometimes give a positive result for uninfected people, and the very low number in Wuhan was well within the range of expected error.

"As more countries adopt mass screening strategies, a challenge will be to try and minimize the chances of detecting false positives," Tam said in an email response to The Associated Press. "This has some implications, because in Wuhan for example, those who tested positive and more than 1,000 of their contacts were quarantined."

The rapid testing of so many people was made possible in part through batch testing, in which samples from up to five people are mixed together, Xinhua reported. If the result is positive, then the people are individually tested.

National resources were also mobilized to help, said Wang Weihua, deputy director of the Wuhan Health Commission, according to Xinhua. Together, these efforts raised Wuhan's daily testing capacity from 300,000 to more than one million, she was quoted as saying.

## North Korea threatens to halt military agreement over leaflets

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—North Korea threatened on Thursday to end an inter-Korean military agreement reached in 2018 to reduce tensions if the South fails to prevent activists from flying anti-Pyongyang leaflets over the border.

Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of North Korea's leader, also said the North could permanently shut a liaison office with the South and an inter-Korean factory park in the border town of Kaesong, which have been major symbols of reconciliation between the Koreas.

North Korean defectors and other activists in recent weeks have used balloons to fly leaflets criticizing the North's authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un over his nuclear ambitions and dismal human rights record.

Sending balloons across the border has been a common activist tactic for years, but North Korea considers it an attack on its government. It wants them banned, but Seoul refuses and says the activists and defectors are exercising free speech.

In her statement released through state media, Kim Yo Jong called those de-

fectors "human scum" and "mongrel dogs" who betrayed their homeland and said it was "time to bring their owners to account," referring to the government in Seoul.

"(South Korean) authorities will be forced to pay a dear price if they let this situation go on while making sort of excuses," she said.

"If they fail to take corresponding steps for the senseless act against the fellow countrymen, they had better get themselves ready for possibility of the complete withdrawal of the already desolate Kaesong Industrial Park following the stop to tour of (Diamond Mountain), or shutdown of the (North-South) joint liaison office whose existence only adds to trouble, or the scrapping of the (North-South) agreement in military field which is hardly of any value."

In a separate statement, the international affairs department of the North's ruling Workers' Party accused U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo of spewing "rubbish" over his critical comments toward Beijing, which is Pyongyang's biggest ally.



## World

## Italy opens borders ahead of neighbors, still eyed warily

**VENTIMIGLIA, Italy** (AP)—Italy officially ended its long coronavirus lockdown Wednesday, opening regional and international borders in a bid to boost summer tourism, but found itself alone as European neighbors viewed the move as premature and remained wary of visitors from Italy.

Italy's long-awaited internal and external opening after nearly three months allowed residents to finally reunite with friends and family members, and brought a flood of French shoppers across the border for less expensive groceries and cigarettes. But normalcy was a long way off.

Giuseppina Niglio drove 8 1/2 hours from Salerno, south of Naples, to the border with Switzerland to see her children, Roberta di Giacomo, 24, and Alessandro di Giacomo, 21. The siblings study at the musical conservatory in Lugano, Switzerland. They crossed into Italy on foot with their luggage, her cello and his violin.

"I can say that the drive we did from 4 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. just flew by," Niglio said. "We had a lot of adrenaline. We couldn't wait to see them and hug them again."

Italy is the first European country to fully open its international borders, dropping the 14-day quarantine requirement for visitors from most of Europe. Many European nations are waiting until June 15 to open their borders, and some much later than that.

Who gets to go where in Europe this summer is shaping up to be determined by where you live, what passport you carry and even how hard

## Coronavirus strands merchant ship crews at sea for months

**ATHENS, Greece** (AP)—For nearly four months, Capt. Andrei Kogankov and his oil tanker crew haven't set foot on dry land. With global travel at a virtual standstill due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Russian captain was forced to extend his normal contract. He still doesn't know when he'll be able to go home.

Countries across the world have imposed lockdowns, shut borders and suspended international flights to curb the spread of the new coronavirus. Merchant ship crews have become unintended collateral damage.

About 150,000 seafarers are stranded at sea in need of crew changes, according to the International Chamber of Shipping. Roughly another 150,000 are stuck on shore, waiting to get back to work.

"In some ways, they've been the forgotten army of



Visitors arrive on the reopening day of the Uffizi museum, in Florence, Italy, Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

AP

hit your region has been during the pandemic.

Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte criticized as "discriminatory" moves by Austria and Greece to limit the arrivals of Italians in their countries, due to concerns over the level of contagion in some regions, notably Lombardy.

"The health emergency is now behind us," Conte said during a news conference, adding that he was working to reverse restrictions on Italian travelers.

Indeed, Europe-wide, rules on cross-border travel were a patchwork of regulations.

Even within Italy, regions

with fewer residents infected with the virus viewed with some trepidation the arrival of tourists from the country's harder-hit north. A move by Sardinia to require some form of testing for people coming from other parts of Italy was rejected by the Rome government as unconstitutional. A requirement for visitors to register before their arrival took the place of the proposed measure.

Germany said Wednesday that it plans to lift a travel warning for European countries from June 15 but it may still advise against travel in some cases, for example to Britain if quarantine rules

governments. You can't expect people to move (personal protective equipment), drugs and all the issues that we need to respond to COVID, and keep cities and countries that are in lockdown fed, if you don't move cargo on ships," said Steve Cotton, General Secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation, or ITF. "They've got to recognize the sacrifice seafarers are making for our global society."

Kogankov is seven months into a four-month contract and was supposed to be replaced in mid-March in Qatar. But a few days before he arrived, Qatar imposed a lockdown and banned international flights.

From there to South Korea, Japan, South Korea again and on to Singapore and Thailand, each time the same story: Lockdown. No flights. No going home.

there remain.

Austria said it is ending border checks with all its neighbors except for Italy, due to lingering concerns about coronavirus infections there, particularly hard-hit Lombardy.

Greece last week announced that visitors from 29 countries would be subject to random coronavirus testing and no quarantine. After protests from Italy, Spain and other countries not included, Greece clarified that its criteria applied to individual air-

ports, not entire countries. For example, passengers on flights from Rome will subject to the looser entry rules, but those from northern Italy will still need to undergo more stringent screening.

Italy's neighbor, France, also is looking at opening its borders on June 15—although French citizens who cross over in the meantime are no longer subject to quarantines upon their return. Their absence had been sorely felt in the border down of Ventimiglia, where

stall owners in the local market say they are responsible for 90% of sales.

"When the market works, restaurants work, bars work, shops work," said stall owner Eleonora Sanvito.

But on the first day of open borders, Italians who cross into France for work every day—who number around 7,000—found waits of two to three hours as French authorities apparently increased checks due to Italy's relaxing of internal controls, Martino Santacroce, chief of Ventimiglia's Border Police branch, told The Associated Press.

In a sign of continued caution regarding outsiders, the Czech Republic and Slovakia—a single nation before the fall of communism—planned to open their common border as of Thursday while keeping checks in place for visitors from other places.

The British government was confirming plans Wednesday to impose a 14-day quarantine for people arriving in the country starting next week, despite pleas from the travel industry to drop the idea and criticism from others that the move comes way too late to tamp down the country's coronavirus outbreak.

Britain has seen nearly 39,500 deaths linked to the virus, the highest death toll in Europe and second-highest in the world after the United States. Europe overall has recorded 175,000 deaths during the pandemic.

## Virus forges rare accord among bitter Venezuelan rivals

**CARACAS, Venezuela** (AP)—President Nicolás Maduro and Venezuela's opposition, led by Juan Guaidó, have agreed to a measures for battling the new coronavirus to be overseen by international health workers, a first step in years toward cooperation between bitter political rivals for the benefit of the country.

While focused narrowly on the pandemic response, experts said Wednesday the agreement opens a window of hope for tackling Venezuela's overarching political stalemate that has left the once-wealthy oil nation in deepening economic and social crisis.

Geoff Ramsey of the Washington Office on Latin America think tank said it's the first major agreement successfully forged in recent years between Maduro and the opposition.

"It's hard to overstate how important this is for Venezuela," Ramsey said.

Venezuelans are increas-

ingly losing patience with the lack of progress in finding a political solution, he said, adding that this agreement could next lead to more badly needed humanitarian assistance and create momentum for negotiations for a political solution to the crisis.

"If they can negotiate a humanitarian accord, the next step would be to negotiate conditions for free and fair elections," Ramsey said. "It seems like both Maduro and the opposition are beginning to see that they can't simply sit back with their arms folded and blame the other side."

The one-page agreement signed June 1 says both sides will work in coordination to find funds for fighting the coronavirus. It is signed by Maduro's health minister, Dr. Carlos Alvarado, and Dr. Julio Castro, who represents the Guaidó-led National Assembly.

It was also signed by Dr. Gerardo de Cosío, the head

of the Venezuela office of the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization, which will oversee the cooperation.

"This document is, I hope, a step to move forward to a level of collaboration of both sides," Dr. De Cosío told The Associated Press. "This is one milestone of many more to be reached."

Venezuela has been in a political crisis for years, and early last year Guaidó claimed presidential powers as head of the National Assembly, backed by the U.S. among nearly 60 nations, which say Maduro holds power illegally due to an undemocratic election.

The crisis had left much of Venezuela without reliable water, electricity, gasoline and health care long before the pandemic. So far, officials report 1,819 coronavirus cases and 18 deaths, but some fear it could easily overwhelm Venezuela's hospitals.



# Off The Wall

## Police: Man faked wife's disappearance so she'd avoid prison

**GRANDVIEW, W. Va.** (AP)—A West Virginia woman and her husband faked her disappearance by pretending she plummeted from an overlook as part of a scheme to

keep her out of having to go to prison, authorities said.

Julie Wheeler and Rodney Wheeler were arrested Tuesday on multiple charges including conspiracy and giv-

ing false information to West Virginia State Police.

State police said Julie Wheeler was reported missing Sunday by her husband and 17-year-old son.

The family claimed Julie Wheeler had fallen from the

main overlook at the New River Gorge National River, National Park Service Ranger Leah Perkowski-Sisk said.

Authorities searched for Julie Wheeler for days but found her Tuesday "alive and well" hiding in a closet in her home.

A criminal complaint said Rodney Wheeler and his son planted items at the Grandview Overlook to fake Julie Wheeler's disappearance. It's unclear whether the son will face criminal charges.

Julie Wheeler pleaded guilty

to federal health care fraud in February after an investigation into "pill mill" clinic operations. She'll be sentenced for that charge on June 17.

It's unclear whether the couple have an attorney who could comment on their behalf.

## German police investigating find of ape body parts in forest

**BERLIN** (AP)—German police say the grisly find of an ape's hand and foot in a forest west of Munich appears to be less nefarious than previously thought, and certainly not as outlandish than wildly speculative tips they've received.

The cleanly severed hand and foot, complete with skin, hair and nails, were discovered about a week ago near the Bavarian town of Grafrath by a forester's dog. Tips came in, including one suggesting the find was evidence the government was carrying out coronavirus experiments on monkeys, police told the dpa news agency Thursday.

But after examination of the foot and hand, which appear to come from a chim-

panzee, experts concluded they had been preserved with formaldehyde or another chemical used to keep scientific specimens.

"This makes it possible that the parts are significantly older than initially thought," Michael Fischer, a police spokesman in nearby Fuerstenfeldbruck, told dpa. "The good news is that nobody has to worry that an ape was slaughtered in Fuerstenfeldbruck last week."

Police are still trying to figure out how a chimpanzee's parts ended up in a German forest, but say it now seems likely it is at most an administrative offense rather than a crime.

"And it could already be past the statute of limitations," Fischer said.

## KENSINGTON, Maryland

(AP)—Master builders of the sea construct the equivalent of a complex five-story house that protects them from predators and funnels and filters food for them—all from snot coming out of their heads

And when these delicate mucus homes get clogged, the tadpole-looking critters—called giant larvaceans—build a new one. Usually every day or so.

These so-called "snot palaces" could possibly help human construction if scientists manage to crack the mucus architectural code, said Kakanji Katija, a bioengineer at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

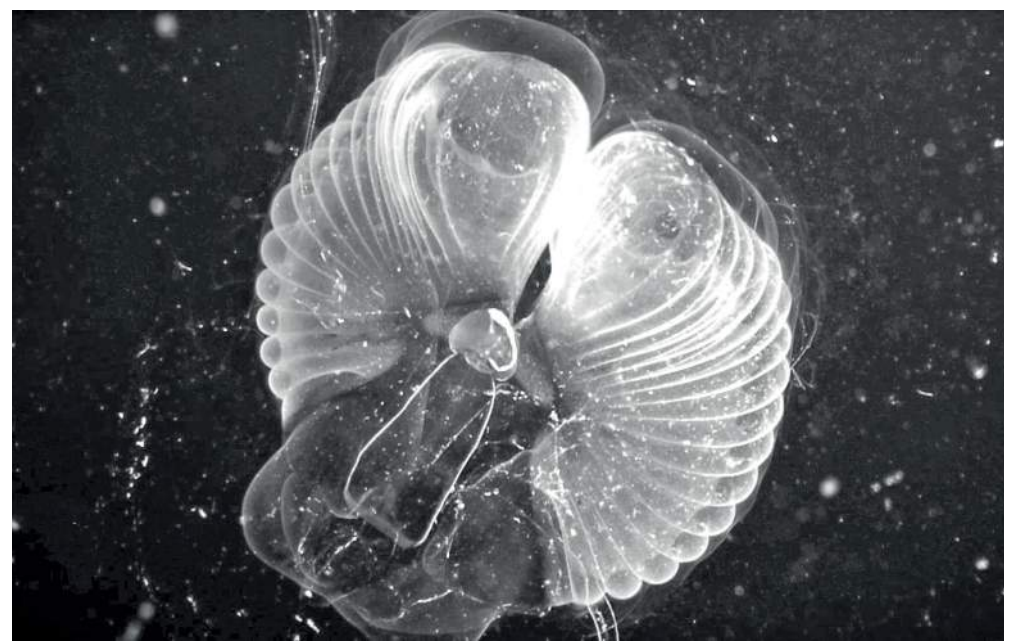
Her team took a step toward solving the mystery of the snot houses and maybe someday even replicating them, according to a study in Wednesday's journal Nature

The creatures inside these houses may be small—the biggest are around 4 inches (10 centimeters)—but they are smart and crucial to Earth's environment. Found globally, they are the closest relatives to humans without a backbone, Katija and other scientists said

Together with their houses "they are like an alien life form, made almost entirely out of water, yet crafted with complexity and purpose," said Dalhousie University marine biologist Boris Worm, who wasn't part of the study. "They remind me of a cross between a living veil and a high tech

"It could be the most kind of complex structure that an animal makes," Katija said. "It's pretty astonishing that a single animal is able to do it.

And the houses are comparatively big—about 10 times bigger than the critters themselves—reaching more than three feet wide (one meter).



MBARI VIA AP

This 2002 photo provided by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute shows a close up view of a "giant larvacean" and its "inner house"—a mucus filter that the animal uses to collect food. The creature, usually three to ten centimeters (about one to four inches) in length, builds a huge mucous structure that functions as an elaborate feeding apparatus, guiding food particles into the animal's mouth. When the filters get clogged, the larvacean abandons them. The abandoned filters sink toward the seafloor, and become an important food source for other marine animals.

## Texas jail says guards didn't notice inmate giving birth

**DALLAS** (AP)—A woman managed to go into labor and give birth alone in a Texas jail cell without any corrections officers noticing until after she had delivered the child, a sheriff's official said Thursday.

The woman had the baby in a Fort Worth jail cell on May 17, according to Tarrant County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Lt. Jennifer Gabbert.

The woman "did not immediately disclose the birth, but the baby was soon discovered by a corrections officer" and both were taken to a hospital, Gabbert said. She could not immediately provide information about the health of the mother and child.

Jail staff knew the woman was pregnant and had been checking on her regularly, Gabbert said, without specifying the frequency of those checks or whether they knew her due date.

She declined to identify the mother and would not answer several questions about the birth including how the woman could have gone into labor and delivered a child without it coming to the guards' attention. Jail staff don't know how long the labor lasted "due to the mother not notifying corrections staff of the impending birth," Gabbert said.

The sheriff's internal affairs

department is investigating the birth but there is no indication of wrongdoing by jail staff, Gabbert said.

The mother has been held in jail without bond since January on charges of assaulting a family member and injuring a child, elderly or disabled person, Gabbert said. The delivery was first reported by the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The jail has been fighting an outbreak of the new coronavirus among inmates and staff. Fort Worth police have erred against arresting those accused of some minor crimes to avoid spreading the virus to new inmates.

The child was born a few days before state inspectors informed Tarrant County Jail staff that they were not meeting minimum standards for checking on some inmates, according to Brandon Wood, executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards.

The jail was sent a notice of non-compliance on May 21 after inspectors found staff were late to check on an inmate who died by suicide, Gabbert said. "We take this very seriously and the internal investigation is ongoing," she said.

The jail submitted a plan to correct the issue and was recertified six days later.

It would be the equivalent of a person making a five-story house, Katija said.

"They create these small versions of houses by secreting mucus from cells on their heads and then expand those much like a balloon into the structures that we see," Katija said. All in about an hour.

filter pump."

Also, when they abandon their clogged homes about every day, the creatures collectively drop millions of tons of carbon to the seafloor, where it stays, preventing further global warming, Worm said. They also take microplastics out of the water column and dump it on the sea floor. And if that's not enough, the other waste in their abandoned houses is eaten by the ocean's bottom dwellers.

But it's what they build that fascinates and mystifies scientists. Because the snot houses

are so delicate, researchers haven't often been able to take them to the lab to study them. So Katija and team used a remote submarine, cameras and lasers to watch these creatures in water about 650 to 1300 feet (200 to 400 meters) deep off Monterey Bay in Northern California.

These mucus structures aren't simple. They include two heart-like chambers that act as a maze for the food that drifts in, except there's only one way for it to go: into the larvacean's mouth. The snot houses often are nearly transparent and flow all around the critter that looks like a tadpole, but isn't.

Water can flow through the structure so that when it moves through the water it doesn't give much of a motion detectable by predatory fish. That, Katija said, essentially masks the house from whatever

er wants to eat the larvaceans.

NASA engineers looking to build structures on the moon would probably like to learn from the larvaceans, she said.

None of this could be done in the lab. Katija's team used 3D laser scan technology to virtually fly through the inner chambers of the snot palaces, then recreated them with software to model the inner-workings of the structure. But she said the scientists are still far from understanding everything going on there.

Providence College biologist Jack Costello, who wasn't part of the study, said Katija's team did "really cool work ... to detail the complex houses. It's not easy to do in the best circumstances and they've done it deep in the oceans."

"We have a lot to learn," Costello said. "I'm in awe of these animals."

## Florida woman discovers alligators fighting by her home

**FORT MYERS, Fla.** (AP)—A woman in route to get her morning coffee was jolted awake with pounding on her front door she later discovered to be two alligators fighting in front of her home in Florida.

The video of the surprising encounter in Fort Myers was posted on Facebook last week by Susan Geshel. When she first saw the reptiles be-

fore 7 a.m., Geshel told The Fort Myers News-Press that one of the alligators had his snout pinned on her door while the other was stationed at a distance with its snout wide open.

The video then shows Geshel calling her husband in surprise as one of the alligators clamped its jaws on the other's body and pushed it

to the wall as it moved away from the house.

"They made a mess on the front door," Geshel, who has never seen alligators on her property in Fort Myers, said. After about 20 minutes by her house, one of the alligators walked across the street to a neighbor's home while the other disappeared from the area and could have gone to a

nearby pond, she added.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Spokeswoman Melody Kilborn said the fighting alligators were reacting to being in a confined space.

The reptiles, who Kilborn said are most visible when the weather is warm, also tend to mate during May and June, according to the wildlife agency.



# Science & Technology

## Activists use informal tools to keep the peace at protests

By TAMARA LUSH and  
KELLI KENNEDY  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Berto Aguayo heard that Chicago protests started turning violent over the weekend, he called a few dozen people to meet in front of a colorful mural in a South Side neighborhood.

"Number one, we are here to peacefully protect small businesses," Aguayo—co-founder of Increase the Peace, a community organizing group in the city—told the small crowd. He said the businesses were locally owned, and residents relied on them: "That is it. If somebody is trying to loot, don't greet them with hostility. Ask them if they want water, a snack, engage in dialogue. If that doesn't work, don't put your life at risk."

There was no formal training, just a pep talk and a short prayer. Then the group took its place in front of one street's storefronts, many of them immigrant-owned: mom-and-pop grocery stores, restaurants and a homeless youth shelter.

Aguayo, a former gang

member and activist for many Chicago issues, said the group was successful in helping to maintain calm that day. It's part of several efforts around the country that aim to quell tension—and therefore potential violence—at protests, while encouraging folks to march and speak their minds about the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and other African Americans. With daily protests around the United States in dozens of cities—some stretching for a week and showing no sign of slowing—organizers say it's essential to de-escalate any conflict and to avoid theft, vandalism and clashes with police.

Some groups, such as Black Lives Matter, have years of experience protesting and use training and proven strategies: fluorescent vests or colored ribbons to designate legal aid, volunteer medical help or peacekeepers who can try to diffuse spats on the spot. Other people are creating more informal networks as protests pop up in new corners of their cities and states daily, with many attendees who've never



protested before.

"We want to be vocal and peaceful at the same time. Those two do coexist," said Bruce Wilson, of South Carolina. "As soon as you throw a bottle, your message is gone."

He and about 20 others met briefly before protests in Greenville over the weekend to discuss strategies. He urged his group to carefully study fellow protestors and be mind-

ful if someone appeared extremely agitated.

"You can look at someone and tell they're about to cross the line," he said. Like Aguayo, he offers snacks, water, and the space to speak. "I tell them, 'I feel the same way you feel.' You have to lead by example."

In Tampa, Black Lives Mat-

ter organizers over the weekend had nearly 100 safety marshals in fluorescent vests patrolling their march, trained in de-escalation tactics and ordered to be on the lookout for antagonists. The group also had medics, used walkie talkies to identify and squelch outbursts, and enlisted lawyers

LGBTQ community members join Black Lives Matter protesters as they hold signs and chant at passing cars in an intersection in West Hollywood, Calif. on Wednesday, June 3, 2020, over the death of George Floyd, a black man who was in police custody in Minneapolis. Floyd died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on Memorial Day.

and others with legal training to watch out for protesters' rights from the sidelines.

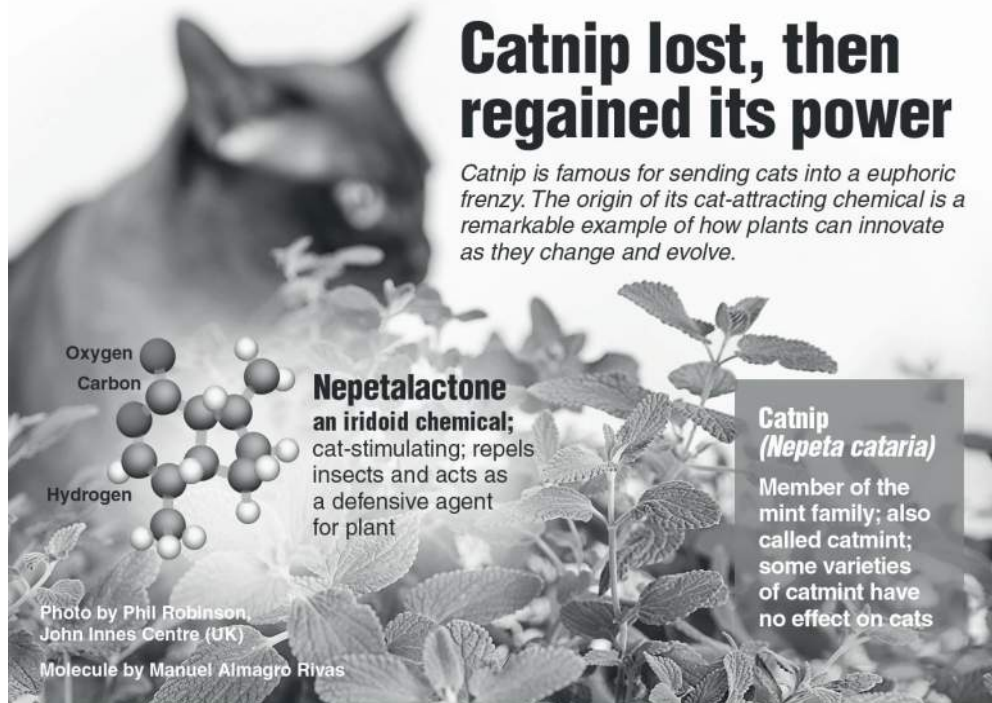
"We wanted to be able to provide a safe space for their voice and rage to be heard within a controlled environment. It's part of their amendment rights for them to be able to express themselves," said Chaikirah Parker, who helped organize the event.

The veteran activist said they purposely held the event early Sunday, despite sweltering heat. Afterward, a younger crowd held another protest, and she said the veteran activists felt obliged to help.

### Science Matters

## Catnip lost, then regained its power

Catnip is famous for sending cats into a euphoric frenzy. The origin of its cat-attracting chemical is a remarkable example of how plants can innovate as they change and evolve.



**Nepetalactone**  
an iridoid chemical;  
cat-stimulating; repels  
insects and acts as  
a defensive agent  
for plant

**Catnip**  
(*Nepeta cataria*)

Member of the  
mint family; also  
called catmint;  
some varieties  
of catmint have  
no effect on cats

Photo by Phil Robinson,  
John Innes Centre (UK)

Molecule by Manuel Almagro Rivas

### Mint family's twisted history

New study found this chronology by tracing the history of DNA mutations in the mint family

**Mint ancestor had** an active gene for producing a defensive iridoid chemical

**55-65 million years ago**, its DNA mutated, the gene was deleted, and the plants lost the ability to produce iridoids

**Tens of million of years later**, in catnip only, a gene for a potent new iridoid re-emerged

**Ancient ancestor of mints**

Source: Pamela Soltis of University of Florida and Florida Museum of Natural History; Mint Genome Project; Live Science; TNS Photos Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

### Mint family plants

Mint

Parsley

Basil

Oregano

**Q: We have two Windows 10 PCs and would like to share documents and photos between them. On our Windows 7 PCs we would have used the "Homegroup" function, but it's been discontinued in newer versions of Windows 10. As a result, the two PCs can "see" each other on our home network, but they can't share files. What should we do?**

**A:** You can share files between PCs with a Windows 10 feature called "Nearby sharing." It uses Bluetooth wireless technology to detect nearby PCs, and shares files with them via either Bluetooth or your home Wi-Fi network (Wi-Fi is faster.)

To use Nearby sharing, you need to make sure the feature is enabled on both PCs. Open Settings (the gear wheel in the tool bar), then click System. On the left side of the screen, click "Shared experiences." Then, on the right side of the screen, make sure "Nearby sharing" is turned on. On the same menu, below Nearby sharing, you can choose which PCs are allowed to share files, and where shared files will be stored by the recipient PC.

Once that's done, open File Explorer on the PC that will share one of its files. Right-click the file you want to share, and in the resulting menu choose "Share." That will produce a list of nearby PCs. (Nearby typically means with-

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

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in about 30 feet, the maximum range of most Bluetooth devices.) Choose the PC with which you want to share the file.

Once you share the file, the recipient PC will get a message about the impending transfer, and its user must accept or decline. (For more details, see [tinyurl.com/y7kr6qb2](https://tinyurl.com/y7kr6qb2)).

Video lag

I recently answered a question from Phil Morton of Eden Prairie, about why his video image was lagging behind on a Zoom call (see [tinyurl.com/y7uqemwt](https://tinyurl.com/y7uqemwt)). The problem hadn't occurred on a rival video call service, Microsoft Teams.

When my suggestions didn't solve the problem, Morton switched the camera from a USB 2.0 port on his PC to a USB 3.0 port. The video lag time then disappeared on Zoom calls.

Why did that work? I have three guesses:

■ Switching USB ports reset the camera-to-PC software connection. If a software glitch caused the problem, that resolved it.

■ The first USB port was flawed, and thus caused video problems.

■ The camera was switched from the USB 2.0 port to a faster USB 3.0 port. That shouldn't make a difference. Zoom and Morton's camera are both designed to use USB 2.0. But you never know.

**Q: When my PC shut down, a message directed me to call a "Microsoft technician" who said the PC was infected. I paid \$435 for a new "Microsoft license," IP address and firewall software, plus \$275 for labor. I've asked for a partial refund, but all I've gotten so far is promises. Their help line doesn't work. Is this a scam? (I have 120 days to file a complaint at my bank.)**

**A:** Yes, it's a scam. Microsoft will never urge you to call them, and the list of repairs is bogus. The nonworking help line is the final tip-off. File a complaint with your bank, then download and run the free version of the Malwarebytes security program (see [tinyurl.com/z8xsb8e](https://tinyurl.com/z8xsb8e)).



# Life & Style

**FLORENCE, Italy (AP)**—The Uffizi Galleries, the most-visited museum in Italy, is open after three months of COVID-19 lockdown, delighting art lovers who don't have to jostle with throngs of tourists thanks to new social distancing rules.

Uffizi director Eike Schmidt told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the government-ordered closure of museums during coronavirus containment measures meant 1 million fewer visitors and 12 million euros (\$13.2 million) in less revenue for that period. Now, at most 450 people at one time are allowed in the Uffizi's many galleries, chock full of some of the art world's greatest masterpieces.

That means visitors no longer have to elbow their way to admire such masterpieces as Botticelli's "Birth of Venus."

First in line to enter was Laura Ganino. She was studying in Florence when the lockdown was declared in early March and now was finally about to leave the Tuscan city, since Italy on Wednesday dropped restrictions on travel between regions in the country.

Schmidt said tourists from overseas weren't expected to come to Italy in large numbers likely before 2021. Ganino took advantage of the smaller number of visitors. Crowds, she said, pose "an obstacle between me and what I'm observing."

Right behind her in line was Patrizia Spagnese, from Prato in Tuscany. With crowds, "I get distracted, I tend to tire easily," she said, so with her husband she was eager to savor the beauties inside the Uffizi, which she had never seen in its entirety despite many times being in Florence.

Schmidt said social distanc-



AP

A photographer prepares to take pictures in the room where 15th century painting "The Birth of Venus" by Italian Renaissance artist Sandro Botticelli hangs, right, during a press tour of the Uffizi museum on the day off its reopening, in Florence, Wednesday, June 3, 2020.

## No crowds delight art lovers in Italy at reopened museums

ing heralds a new era in art experience. Without being surrounded by rushing crowds, art lovers can better "feel these emotions that these works of art always transmit," he said.

Visitors to the highly popu-

lar Vatican Museums, which reopened two days earlier after lockdown, similarly could appreciate opportunities rarely available in the past. These

include enjoying Michelangelo's frescoed ceiling in the Sistine Chapels without many other tourists jockeying for a spot where they can crane their neck to observe the masterpiece overhead.

As an added bonus, the Vatican Museums visitors can now see work by Raphael which had long been attributed

to that of his artistic workshop but that after several years of delicate cleaning and restoration, experts decided were really painted by him shortly before his death in 1520.

Two female figures, each with one breast bared and serving as allegorical representations of justice and friendship decorate one of the walls of

the Hall of Constantine.

The Vatican had planned to unveil the "re-discovery" of Raphael's work at an international convention of art experts in April. But the coronavirus outbreak forced that plan to be scrapped.

Instead, rank-and-file art lovers who visited the rooms of the Vatican decorated by

## US news organizations focus on lives lost in the pandemic

By **DAVID BAUDER and HILLEL ITALIE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Many are familiar with some of the bold-faced names of people who died of COVID-19—musician John Prine, NFL kicker Tom Dempsey, former Stanford University President Donald Kennedy and music producer Hal Willner.

Most of the pandemic's victims aren't known beyond family, friends and neighbors: Tomas Lopez, who sold tacos from a truck in Seattle; Long Island supermarket worker Gladys Cortes; realtor Bob Barnum of St. Petersburg, Florida; Mary Louise Brown Morgan of New Orleans, who

exercised with her friends in the "Silver Slippers" three times a week.

The milestone recently reached was a number simple to emblazon in newspaper, website and television headlines—100,000 people in the United States dead from the new coronavirus.

Yet since the pandemic started, the nation's obituary writers have tried to tell the world about Lopez, Morgan and thousands like them, to make clear there's a life behind every number.

"I think people are interested—I know I am—in the lives of people who are not public figures who are dying from this," said Mo Rocca of CBS News, who did two pre-cor-

onavirus seasons of his "Obituaries" podcast exploring lives lost.

He's been too busy with his day job on "CBS Sunday Morning" to get started on a third season, but when he does, he expects to explore that interest.

"There's this cliché about somebody being 'taken from us,' and I don't think it's a cliché in this case because it does feel like these lives have been taken from us," Rocca said.

Adam Bernstein, who oversees obituaries at The Washington Post, said the workload has easily doubled since the virus began and that the significance of obituaries right now is measured not just by the loss of victims but the way so

many of us have been forced to live.

"Obituaries are essentially stories that allow us to make human connections with strangers," he said. "We're all stuck at home, yearning for human connection we really haven't had for a long time, and obituaries provide that kind of contact."

In a typical month, The New York Times runs about 80 to 85 obituaries. In April, the paper wrote 185, said Bill McDonald, the newspaper's obituaries editor.

That doesn't even count some that were written but didn't run, like the obit that was quickly prepared for British Prime Minister Boris Johnson when he was critically ill

with COVID-19. Just in case.

The Times was well-prepared to deal with the lives of the famous and accomplished. But at the pandemic's outset, editors were determined to chronicle a cross-section of people who died. The model was the Times' "Portraits of Grief" about victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center, only this time the paper wanted to do more than vignettes and knew the job was open-ended, McDonald said. The Times' obit department brought in people from other parts of the operation who had seen their workload decrease because of the lockdown.

The result is the paper's "Those We've Lost" section that profiles lesser-known victims.

"We were interested in putting faces behind the numbers,

which are so numbing," McDonald said.

The same theory was behind the arresting cover of the Times' edition on Sunday, May 24, which named 1,000 victims and briefly summarized what made them unique.

Scale was also an issue at The Associated Press, the idea of telling a sprawling story in ways that people could relate to.

"We decided to focus on families and what the impact was on individuals," said Peter Prengaman, the AP's news director for the western United States. With Raghu Vadarevu, a global news editor, they created the "Lives Lost" feature that draws on the AP's worldwide reach and staff to tell these stories and show differences in how victims are mourned.





AP  
In this April 29, 2020 file photo, a message on the ticket window at the AMC Burbank 16 movie theaters complex informs potential customers that it is currently closed in Burbank, Calif.

## Cinema chain AMC warns it may not survive the pandemic

By TALI ARBEL  
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

Movie theater chain AMC warned Wednesday that it may not survive the coronavirus pandemic, which has shuttered its theaters and led film studios to explore releasing more movies directly to viewers over the internet.

It's the latest danger sign for the theater business in North America, which was under

pressure even before the pandemic. It has gotten a boost by raising ticket prices and revamping theater-going into a more luxurious experience with drinks and meals, but admissions have been gradually declining since 2005. The box office has become home mostly to blockbuster films: Sequels, remakes and superhero movies dominate. Meanwhile, the rise of streaming services—Netflix and a grow-

ing stable of rivals—is providing new competition.

The coronavirus pandemic threw in more challenges. U.S. cinemas shut down in March, so their owners haven't been taking in money. Hollywood halted film production, which is likely to delay movies once theaters reopen and may limit consumer eagerness to spend money at the multiplex. The pandemic has prompted entertainment companies to release some movies directly to con-

sumers, raising concerns that more will bypass theaters in the future. And when theaters do reopen, it's not clear how many customers will want to be in enclosed, crowded spaces for hours at a time.

AMC, the largest U.S. chain, said it has enough cash to reopen its theaters this summer as planned. But if it's not allowed to reopen, it will need more money, which it may not be able to borrow. Film delays are another concern.

AMC noted that people may be afraid to go to theaters, but hopes the desire for social distancing is temporary and that people will want to go to the movies again.

"Due to these factors, substantial doubt exists about our

ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time," AMC wrote in a regulatory filing. The publicly traded company, controlled by Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda, has 1,000 theaters in the U.S. and Europe.

## Former exec pleads guilty to bribing son's way into college

**BOSTON (AP)**—A former technology executive pleaded guilty Tuesday to paying \$300,000 to bribe his son's way into Georgetown University as a tennis recruit—even though the son didn't play tennis.

The U.S. Attorney's office in Boston said Peter Dameris, 60, of Pacific Palisades, California, pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit mail fraud and honest services mail fraud.

Under the terms of Dameris' plea agreement, federal prosecutors will recommend a sentence of time served plus 21 months of home confinement, a fine of \$95,000 and restitution, U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling said in a statement.

U.S. District Court Judge Richard Stearns set sentencing for Oct. 5.

Dameris, a former executive at technology services company ASGN Inc., is the 54th person to plead guilty in the sweeping nationwide college admissions bribery scandal.

Prosecutors say Dameris agreed to funnel the money

to a sham charity set up by William "Rick" Singer, the alleged ringleader of the scheme. They say he did so to ensure his son was admitted to Georgetown as a tennis recruit, "even though he did not play tennis competitively."

Singer pleaded guilty and is cooperating with the government's investigation into what authorities have dubbed "Operation Varsity Blues"—a series of indictments that have rocked the worlds of higher education, sports and entertainment.

Dozens of wealthy parents, athletic coaches and others were charged last year in the scheme. The parents paid hefty bribes to get their kids into top universities with bogus test scores or fake athletic credentials, authorities say.

Others who have pleaded guilty include "Full House" actress Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, who agreed to plead guilty last month. A judge has yet to decide whether he'll accept deals they made with prosecutors.

## Henley: Change copyright law

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Eagles songwriter Don Henley urged Congress on Tuesday to "Take It to the Limit" to protect artists against online pirating, wading into a copyright fight pitting Hollywood and the recording industry against big tech platforms like Google's YouTube.

The blockbuster hitmaker of the 1970s testified online from his home before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee weighing possible changes to a 1998 copyright law. The law allows holders of copyrighted material to formally ask parties they believe have taken their content without permission to remove it. The parties can dispute the claim. If they comply promptly with the request, there are no legal consequences. Otherwise, they may be subject to criminal penalties.

Henley said the law is weak and needs to be changed to make it more effective in stopping online piracy.

The so-called "notice and takedown" system under the copyright law is used by the movie and recording industries, entertainment software makers and book authors to

pursue tech platforms, universities and other facilitators of file-sharing.

Henley called the copyright law "a relic of a MySpace era in a TikTok world." With hundreds of millions of takedown notices sent, for every link taken down, "a dozen more pop up in its place," he said. The system "still allows Big Tech to rake in revenue" after repeated copyright infringements, Henley said.

The copyright battle is being spotlighted in Congress at a time when U.S. tech giants are in an escalating feud with President Donald Trump and Republican lawmakers, who accuse platforms such as Twitter, Google and Facebook of suppressing conservative viewpoints. The dispute boiled over last week when Twitter attached warnings to some of Trump's tweets, on mail-in voting and the use of force against people protesting the police killing of George Floyd. Trump, who is Twitter's most prominent user, responded by issuing an executive order intended to chip away at the tech platforms' legal shield for speech content they carry.

## In COVID-19 darkness, gift of a 'Moment of Light' to museum

**AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP)**—If not for the pandemic, Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum would have missed out on a classic Dutch 16th century painting it so badly craved.

Instead, the work now graces a central hall of one of the world's most famous cultural institutions—all because a wealthy dealer in old masters elected to pay a very unusual tribute to COVID-19 victims.

When the museum reopened Monday after the Dutch lockdown was eased, General Director Taco Dibbits stood beaming before Bartholomeus Spranger's "Body of Christ Supported by Angels."

"This gift came and it was a moment of light," he said.

His joy contrasted sharply with the disappointment he felt at the early March TEFAF art fair—an annual jamboree in the southern Netherlands where culture meets capital. He thought the oil-on-copper painting was his to buy.

"We were standing there with our curators around the painting and saying how wonderful it was," he said. What they didn't know was that the

picture had been sold almost on arrival at the fair.

Dibbits went back to Amsterdam, and was forced to deal with the impact of the coronavirus on his institution. With the public shut out, he said, "we were losing 1 million (euros) a week. ... That's really a very substantial part of what we need to make the museum function."

So imagine Dibbits' surprise when he got a call from interna-

tional dealer and collector Bob Haboldt, who owned the painting and had earlier said he sold it.

It turned out that as soon as the pandemic broke, the sale was canceled.

The globe-trotting Dutchman, who lives in France and Italy and has offices in Amsterdam, Paris and New York, was tied down, just like everybody else.

"In isolation, I took the step that I would not think about

its financial value," he said in a phone interview from Italy. "Only its emotional value."

He refused say how much the painting could fetch, but "it is a big gift, no matter how you look at it."

Haboldt said he decided to donate the painting "in memory of the victims of COVID-19, not only those who died but also those who suffered," and to serve as inspiration to others to support the arts.



Bartholomeus Spranger's "Body of Christ Supported by Angels" oil on copper painting, center, which went on display at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Monday, June 1, 2020.



# Amy Grant

## has open heart surgery to fix heart condition

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)**—A publicist for Amy Grant says the contemporary Christian singer had open heart surgery on Wednesday to fix a heart condition she has had since birth.

Doctors discovered Grant had a heart condition called partial anomalous pulmonary venous return (PAPVR) during a routine checkup. Velvet Kelm, her publicist, said Grant's doctor said the surgery

"couldn't have gone better."

Grant, who has been married to country singer Vince Gill for 20 years, is six-time Grammy winner with well known crossover pop hits like "Baby, Baby," "Every Heartbeat" and "That's What Love is For." She's sold more than 30 million albums, including her 5-times platinum 1991 record "Heart in Motion," that introduced her to a larger pop audience.



AP  
In this Oct. 15, 2019 file photo, singer Amy Grant performs during the Dove Awards in Nashville, Tenn.

## Judge gives control of Joe Exotic's zoo to Carole Baskin

**WYNNEWOOD, Okla. (AP)**—A federal judge in Oklahoma has awarded ownership of the zoo made famous in Netflix's "Tiger King" docuseries to Joe Exotic's chief rival.

In a ruling Monday, U.S. District Judge Scott Palk granted control of the Oklahoma zoo that was previously run by Joseph Maldonado-Passage—also known as Joe Exotic—to Big Cat Rescue Corp.

The Florida group was founded by Carole Baskin, who also featured prominently in the hit Netflix series. Maldonado-Passage is currently serving a 22-year federal prison term for killing five tigers and plotting to have Baskin killed.

Baskin previously sued Maldonado-Passage for

trademark and copyright infringements and won a \$1 million civil judgment against him. Palk's judgment Monday found that ownership of the zoo was fraudulently transferred to Maldonado-Passage's mother in an attempt to avoid paying the judgment.

The decision said the zoo animals must be removed from the property within 120 days but it does not detail what should happen to them.

Attorneys representing Big Cat Rescue Corp. did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Maldonado-Passage remains incarcerated in Fort Worth, Texas. In a handwritten letter posted Monday on Twitter, he repeated his plea for a presidential pardon.

## Brands weigh in on national protests over police brutality

By **LINDSEY BAHR and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO**  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

As thousands of protesters take to the streets in response to police killings of black people, companies are wading into the national conversation but taking care to get their messaging right.

Netflix's normally lighthearted Twitter account took on a more somber tone on Saturday: "To be silent is to be complicit. Black lives matter. We have a platform, and we have a duty to our Black members, employees, creators and talent to speak up." That got retweeted over 216,000 times and "liked" over a million times.

The streaming service is just one of many corporate brands that have turned to social media

to voice concerns over racial injustice after the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee against Floyd's neck for several minutes.

At the same time, companies must consider whether it makes sense for them to weigh in, especially on an issue as sensitive as race.

"It's brand activism," said Alexander Chernev, a professor of marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. "It's not surprising. But companies have to think very carefully before they take a stand on these issues."

There are plenty of examples of brands speaking out forcefully on social media, particularly in industries where cultur-

al awareness is necessary part of the business. WarnerMedia, which is owned by AT&T and includes brands like HBO and TBS, changed their handles to #BlackLivesMatter and all posted the same James Baldwin quote: "Neither love nor terror makes one blind: indifference makes one blind."

Twitter changed its iconic profile image to black with the Black Lives Matter hashtag. Media giant ViacomCBS tweeted "Black Lives Matter. Black Culture Matters. Black Communities Matter," and on Monday announced that its cable properties like MTV and Comedy Central will go dark for 8 minutes and 46 seconds to honor Floyd.

Nike, which famously took on the racial injustice issue

head-on with its ad campaign featuring former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, revealed a new video ad on Friday that bore the words: "For once, don't do it." The ad, a twist on its "Do it" motto, urged viewers not to "pretend there's not a problem in America."

Even automakers took unusually strong stances on Floyd's death.

"I am both impatient and disgusted by the fact that as a nation, we seem to be placated by the passive discussion of 'why,'" the normally reserved General Motors CEO Mary Barra wrote in a weekend note to employees. "There comes a time when we are compelled to stop diagnosing what is wrong and start advocating for what is right."

## Sorrow consumes couple's lives after son's suicide

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I lost our son to suicide a few years ago. We have never gotten over it. I have recovered somewhat and would like to resume having intimate relations, but she's not that far along.

I no longer feel there's any reason to continue on this earth. There is no point to my being here. I think about suicide daily. I have been told that if I were going to do this and hurt my family as my son did, I would've already done it.

My wife and I have been cast into a hell that's impossible to bear. There is no way to describe the pain, anger and sorrow we feel. I want to die because I feel the world would be a better place without my sorrowful self taking up resources. I have sought help ever since we lost my son, and have been taking all kinds of medication that I no longer want to take. Is there a way out other than my option?

BEYOND DEPRESSED

**DEAR BEYOND DEPRESSED:** Please accept my deepest sympathy for the tragic loss of your son. I cannot imagine the hell you and your wife are going through.

Because you can't get the thought of suicide out of your mind, it is very important that you receive more help than I can give you in a letter. Your doctor should be put on notice about your issue with your medications.

Also, a group that might be helpful for you and your wife is the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. If you contact them, they can refer you to a local support group for

people who are surviving a loved one's suicide. The website is [afsp.org](http://afsp.org). If, however, you feel you have reached a point where harming yourself is imminent, I urge you to call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-8255. Please don't give up.

**DEAR ABBY:** I have two children. One is 6, and the other is an infant. My 6-year-old is kind but mischievous at times. I am a firm believer that children need loving parents, but also parents who discipline when it's needed.

My mother recently came to live with me and my husband. She helps out a lot, but she is causing some confusion in our home. She doesn't discipline my 6-year-old when needed. In fact, she often acts like a child herself when she should be acting like an adult. This issue causes my 6-year-old to sometimes be disrespectful.

When my husband and I hear the smart-mouth talk, we address it, but there's only so much we can do when my mother won't take an adult role. I have had several conversations with her about it, but nothing changes. I don't want her to leave, but I'm afraid her attitude toward parenting and discipline will cause some real problems in my home. Please help.

DISCIPLINED IN VIRGINIA

**DEAR DISCIPLINED:** Continue the conversation with your mother. Explain that although she may think you are too strict with your older child, you are that child's moth-

## DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*



**er, and this is the way you want the child raised. Then tell her that if enforcing the rules is too much for her, she may have to find other living arrangements. Talk to your child, as well. Make sure he/she understands that the rules come from his/her parents and no one else.**

**I am troubled by your statement that your mother sometimes acts like a child. I wish you had mentioned why she's living with you. If you suspect there's a possibility she might be experiencing the onset of dementia, INSIST that she be evaluated by a physician and a neurologist to ensure that she's well.**

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*







# NBA to propose 22-team playoffs for restart



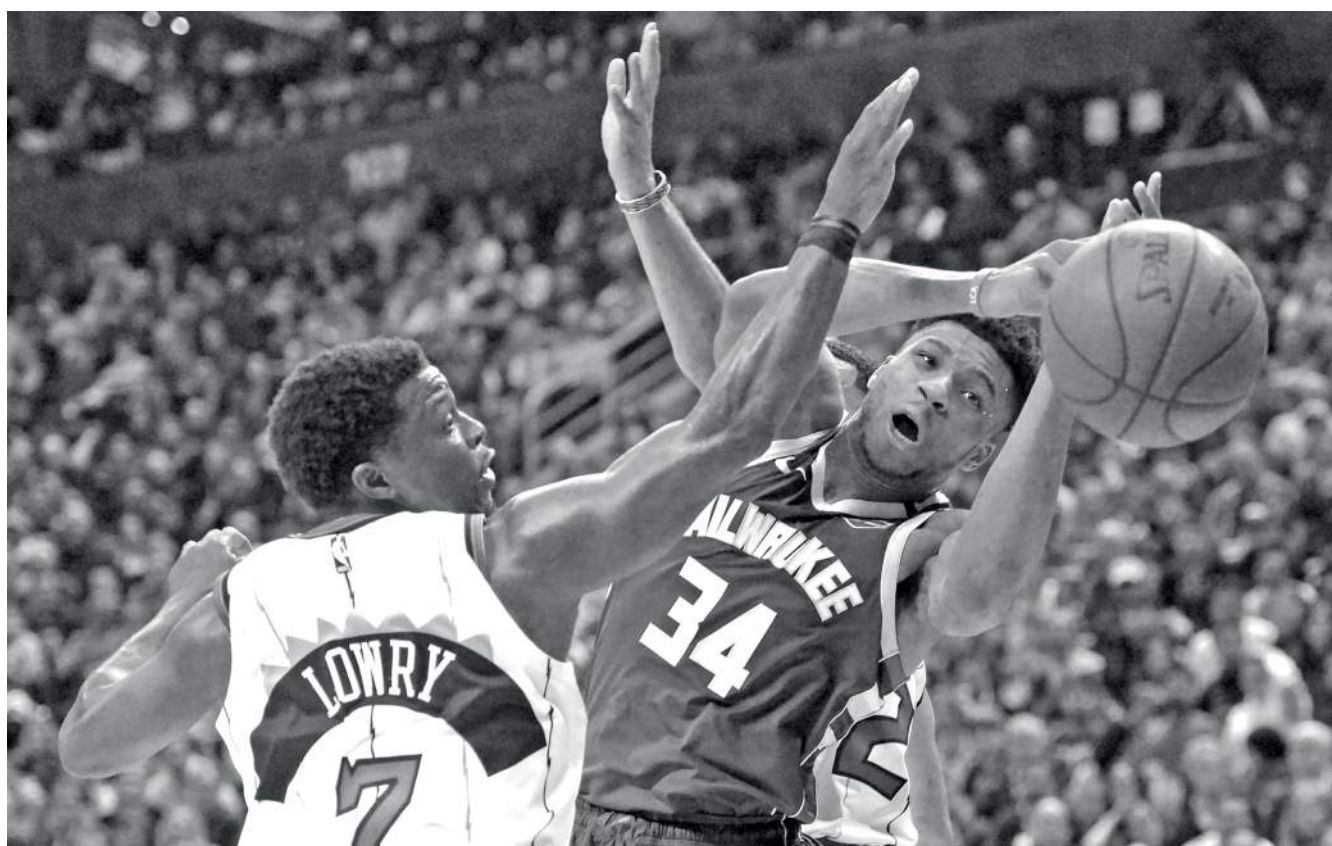
**FLORIDA (AP)**—The NBA has told the National Basketball Players Association that it will present a 22-team plan for restarting the season to the league's board of governors on Thursday, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press.

The teams that will be going to the ESPN Wide World Of Sports complex on the Disney campus near Orlando, Florida, would play eight games to determine playoff seeding starting around July 31 before the post-season begins, according to the person who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the league has not released its proposal publicly.

The plan, once approved, would have 13 Western Conference teams and nine Eastern Conference teams going to Disney, and the cutoff being that teams must be within six games of a playoff spot at this point. Playoffs would start in August, and the NBA Finals will likely stretch into October, the person said.

The Milwaukee Bucks, Los Angeles Lakers, Toronto Raptors and Boston Celtics already have clinched playoff spots—and, if only eight games are left, that would mean the Miami Heat, Indiana Pacers, Philadelphia 76ers, Los Angeles Clippers, Denver Nuggets, Utah Jazz, Oklahoma City Thunder and Houston Rockets would theoretically have clinched spots as well.

The Dallas Mavericks would be virtually assured of clinching a West spot, holding a seven-game lead over eighth-place Memphis. That would mean the Grizzlies, Portland, New Orleans, Sacramento, San Antonio and Phoenix all would



AP  
In this Feb. 25, 2020 file photo, Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry (7) and Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) vie for a loose ball during the first half of an NBA game in Toronto.

be in the running for the No. 8 seed out West. In the East, Washington is six games behind No. 7 Brooklyn and 5 1/2 games behind No. 8 Orlando—so within range of triggering a play-in series.

"I'm all in from the state's perspective," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said at a news conference Wednesday in central Florida. "I don't think you could find a better place than Orlando to do this. I think it's very exciting."

DeSantis met by phone with NBA Deputy Commissioner Mark Tatum on Tuesday. The governor also said the state helped with the plans to make a golf match last month featuring Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Tom Brady and Peyton Manning—one that raised \$20 million for coronavirus relief—happen. And Major League Soccer announced Wednesday a plan to

restart its season in Orlando.

"Orlando really could be the epicenter of the comeback of professional sports," DeSantis said.

For an NBA play-in series to happen to determine the No. 8 seed on either playoff bracket, the ninth-place team would have to be within four games of eighth place once the eight-game schedule of lead-in games is completed. If a play-in series occurs, it would basically be a best-of-two—where the No. 9 seed would have to win two head-to-head matchups to take over the No. 8 spot.

There also would be some jostling for playoff positioning happening in the eight-game restart. In the East, Toronto and Boston are separated by three games for the No. 2 spot, and Miami, Indiana and Philadelphia are separated by two games for the No. 4 spot.

Out West, the Clippers, Denver, Utah, Oklahoma City and Houston are all within four games of one another in the race for the No. 2 seed on that bracket.

There are still some elements of the restart plan that could be changed, and other matters are still being negotiated—such as how much of a percentage of their salaries players will lose because some regular-season games will be canceled. If 15% of the regular season is not played, which would be the current estimate based on the proposal, players would have to give up roughly \$610 million in salary for this season.

It's also unclear what will happen to the eight teams that would not be vying for a postseason berth under the proposed format—Charlotte, Chicago, Atlanta, Detroit, New York, Cleveland, Minnesota

and Golden State. If the 2020-21 NBA season doesn't start until December at the earliest, which would seem to be a very real possibility, those teams could go about nine months without playing games, and some have expressed concerns over what that will mean for player development.

The NBA suspended its season March 11, becoming the first of the U.S. major pro leagues to do so after it became known that Utah's All-Star center Rudy Gobert tested positive for COVID-19. The list of NBA players who were known to test positive eventually grew to 10—not all were identified—and Commissioner Adam Silver said the actual total was higher.

The ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex is a 255-acre campus with multiple arenas that could host games simul-

taneously and has been home to, among other things, the Jr. NBA World Championship in recent years. ESPN is primarily owned by Disney, one of the NBA's broadcast partners.

Meanwhile, the Milwaukee Bucks reward for having the best record in the NBA is that they get home-court advantage in every round.

Except with 22 teams invited to Orlando for the restart, every game will be on a neutral court. There will be no home-court advantage for the league's top teams, no fans to cheer them on, no spending more time in their homes and own beds. Choosing what color uniform to wear is not an advantage.

That has the top teams lobbying the league for some advantage. Some of the ideas top teams have floated include the higher-seeded team being allowed to designate one player to be able to be whistled for seven fouls instead of six before fouling out; the higher-seeded team receiving an extra coach's challenge; and the higher-seeded teams being able to transport their actual hardwood home court from their home arenas to Orlando to try to preserve the feel of their home playing experience.

All these plans are likely DOA since it would require a 2/3 vote of the owners to approve them (good luck convincing teams to give their opponent an advantage). There were other suggestions as well but they likely face the same fate.



## Good News We're Open!

- We ask everyone to wear a mask
- We sanitize all work stations multiple times daily
- We are limiting the number of people in the store
- We created social distancing guidelines to follow



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# Brees' anthem comments draw backlash



NEW OR-  
LEANS (AP)—

Drew Brees was sharply criticized by fellow high-profile athletes, including some of his own teammates, on Wednesday after the Saints quarterback reiterated his opposition to kneeling during the national anthem.

In an interview with Yahoo, Brees was asked to revisit former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's 2016 protest of police brutality against minorities, in which Kaepernick knelt during the national anthem before games.

"I will never agree with anybody disrespecting the flag of the United States," Brees began, adding that the national anthem reminds him of his grandfathers, who served in the armed forces during World War II. "In many cases, it brings me to tears thinking about all that has been sacrificed, and not just in the military, but for that matter, those throughout the civil rights movements of the '60s, and all that has been endured by so many people up until this point."

Critical responses to Brees' statements appeared on social media from a couple major professional athletes, including the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James and Saints safety Malcolm Jenkins.

Jenkins was Brees' teammate when the Saints won the Super Bowl in the 2009 season, but spent the past six seasons with the Philadelphia Eagles before returning to New Orleans this offseason.



In this Sunday Oct. 1, 2017 file photo, New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) kneels down with teammates before the U.S. national anthem was played ahead of an NFL game against Miami Dolphins at Wembley Stadium in London. Saints players then stood when the anthem was played.

Brees has said he supports those protesting police brutality but that he does not see the national anthem as the proper forum for that. In 2017, Brees participated with teammates who knelt before the national anthem, but then stood in unison when the anthem was played.

James, one of the best and most prominent basketball players in NBA history, has

taken to Twitter to respond to Brees' reiteration of his position from 2016.

"WOW MAN!!" James tweeted, with a facepalm emoji. "Is it still surprising at this point. Sure isn't! You literally still don't understand why Kap was kneeling on one knee?? Has absolute nothing to do with the disrespect of [the flag] and our soldiers (men and women) who keep our land free. My

father-in-law was one of those men who fought as well for this country. I asked him question about it and thank him all the time for his commitment. He never found Kap peaceful protest offensive because he and I both know what's right is right and what's wrong is wrong!"

Some have suggested with a shrug that Brees' comments shouldn't be regarded as a big deal because he's simply

saying what he said in 2016, when Kaepernick's protests began. But circumstances have changed dramatically since the original reaction to Kaepernick's gesture. A clear and obvious tipping point regarding police mistreatment of African-Americans and people of color has been reached. Hundreds of commentators and athletes have acknowledged if not shouted from rooftops that the murder of George Floyd shows that Kaepernick's protest wasn't about the flag or the anthem or the military or anything but about police brutality aimed at minorities.

Brees' comments even drew the ire of Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers who posted a message on Instagram: "A few years ago we were criticized for locking arms in solidarity before the game. It has NEVER been about an anthem or a flag. Not then. Not now. Listen with an open heart, let's educate ourselves, and then turn word and thought into action."

What's so dumbfounding about Brees' comments is they contrast so greatly with the support Saints coach Sean Payton has offered his players while speaking out against police brutality and racial discrimination.

No player's condemnation of Brees was stronger or laced with more emotion than Jenkins, who helped found the Players Coalition and has spent the last three seasons lobbying lawmakers for criminal justice reform, voters rights, education and other racial equality related initiatives.

"The onslaught of s--- that

we have to deal with is f--- -- crazy right now," Jenkins fumed. "Drew Brees, if you don't understand how hurtful, how insensitive your comments are, you are part of the problem. To think that because your grandfathers served in this country and you have a great respect for the flag that everybody else should have the same ideals and thoughts that you do is ridiculous. ...

"And then here we are in 2020, with the whole country on fire. Everybody witnessing a black man dying—being murdered—at the hands of the police, just in cold blood for everybody to see. ... And here we are now with the world on fire and you still continue to first criticize how we peacefully protest because it doesn't fit in what you do and your beliefs without ever acknowledging that the fact that a man was murdered at the hands of police in front of us all and that it's been continuing for centuries, that the same brothers that you break the huddle down with before every single game, the same guys that you bleed with and go into battle with every single day go home to communities that have been decimated."

Jenkins closed the video with, "I'm disappointed. I'm hurt. Because while the world tells you that you're not worthy, that your life doesn't matter, the last place you want to hear from are the guys that you go to war with and that you consider to be allies and to be your friends. Even though we're teammates, I can't let this slide."

## MLS, players reach new labor deal, to resume with tournament



LOS ANGE-  
LES (AP)—

Major League Soccer and its players' union agreed to a six-year labor contract through 2025 that paves the way for a tournament in Florida after the season was suspended by the coronavirus pandemic.

The deal was announced Wednesday following tense talks that led to some players skipping voluntary workouts and the league threatening a lockout.

MLS and the Major League Soccer Players Association agreed Feb. 6 to a five-year labor contract, but the deal had not been ratified when the season was stopped on March 12 after only two matches had been played by each team.

The ratified labor deal was announced in the midst of nationwide protests over police brutality and injustice against African Americans sparked by the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis. Both sides noted the unrest in announc-

ing the contract.

"There are problems we face collectively that are both more urgent, and more important, than competing on the field," the union said in a statement. "We hope our return to the field will allow fans a momentary release and a semblance of normalcy."

MLS Commissioner Don Garber vowed the league will go further with its public stance for equality.

"We've tried to create programs that would address some of the things that are important to our core values. I have to say that it's not enough to produce ads, it's not enough just to have programs that talk about these issues," he said.

Garber said the league expects to take a \$1 billion revenue hit because of the coronavirus.

Players agreed to a 7.5% salary reduction starting with the May 31 payroll and a \$5 million cap on team and individual performance bonuses,

a person familiar with the agreement said. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because those details were not announced.

Terms of the deal agreed to in February were pushed back for one year. This year's planned minimum salaries of \$81,375 for senior roster players and \$63,547 for reserve roster players will be pushed back to 2021. The gradual rise to \$109,200/\$85,502 will not be complete until 2025.

One of the sticking points was a provision that allows either side to opt out of the deal because of unforeseen circumstances, like a pandemic. The agreement does not tie the clause to attendance, something the league had sought.

The agreement also changes the players' share of media rights negotiated in the original CBA. The share will drop from 25% to 12.5% in 2023, but will be restored to 25% in 2024.

"There is no winner in this situation. I want to be clear

about that. This is a really terrible situation for all parties involved. Nobody should feel like they won a negotiation in this sense," Nashville defender Daniel Lovitz said. "But from a solidarity standpoint, given the route that the league chose to take at this time in the negotiation process, we're extremely comfortable and proud of our group of players and what we're able to communicate back to the league and ultimately receive what we feel is a more than fair deal."

Details of the Florida tournament are still being finalized. The league's 26 teams and limited staff would be based in the Orlando area and matches played without fans at ESPN's Wide World of Sports Complex at Disney World.

Garber said the tournament would last no longer than 35 days but he did not reveal additional details. Earlier indications were that the tournament would last some two months.



# MLB impasse: More than a season to lose



**NEW YORK** — The National

Basketball Association may be on its way to a return. Major League Soccer has reached an agreement to restart its season. An NFL season seems like a distinct possibility, as teams prepare for pivoted training camps in the coronavirus era.

And baseball? America's pastime? Where is it? Still arguing over money, same as the previous two weeks.

The real danger that looms over baseball isn't the prolonged sparring session between millionaires and billionaires. No, it's the possible death knell of being pro sports' lone holdout after years of looking for ways to recapture its market share.

A couple months ago, we were talking about how baseball might have a lot to gain from being the first sport back from its coronavirus shutdown. We imagined a sports world where baseball was the main event. Where fans got to fall in love with Juan Soto and Ronald Acuña Jr. and gush over Mike Trout and Christian Yelich instead

of debating LeBron James' legacy or whether Tom Brady's Bucs stood a chance in the NFL.

Now, we're looking at the inverse: What if baseball is the only major sport that doesn't come back? What if—in a move that could really tell us baseball's place in the modern sports ecosystem—baseball stays on the sidelines and we're so consumed with LeBron and Tom Brady that the majority of sports fans don't even miss baseball?

As baseball continues to fight amongst itself to work out a revenue model that will work for 2020, the NBA will vote on a plan on Thursday that would restart the season in July at Walt Disney Resort in Florida. It would be a 22-team league that accelerates into the playoffs. Those would stretch into September and October, a sign that even if baseball does get its act together, it's already looking at stepchild status among the NBA and NFL.

In the story about the NBA's return, player salaries don't come into play until literally the very last line. Players



**AP**  
In this March 21, 2019 file photo, Milwaukee Brewers right fielder Christian Yelich makes a throw after a hit by Los Angeles Dodgers' Max Muncy for a double in the first inning of a spring training baseball game in Phoenix.

be a moment for both Major League Baseball and its players' union to stop and think about what's really important here. Is it how much money they make in 2020? Or is it the long-term health of the game?

As bad as the 1994 strike was for baseball, this could be crushing for MLB.

Regardless of who is right and who is wrong, we all know what will happen: The entire league, players and owners alike, will be painted as greedy. Fans will be angry. We'll get months of stories about whether the fans will come back. And a sport that was already lagging behind the NBA and NFL in the battle for America's attention will get lapped.

That's what's really at stake here. Not millions of dollars. Not a union's pride. Not an owner's principles. It's the long-term health of a sport that makes them both very rich.

If they can't figure this out, then both the players and the owners will be in for a reality check when LeBron is dunking, Tom Brady is throwing touchdowns and we're all still missing Mike Trout.

## TENNIS

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tional Park Service in Guam, which manages the AMP, to request for the reopening of the facility.

According to Race, the NPS needs the CNMI government to name specifically the sports allowed to return to play. Gov. Ralph

DLG Torres, in the coronavirus pandemic guidelines released late last month, allowed health and wellness activities (such as gym reopening and walking and running along the beach), but made no specific mention of any sports, while press secretary Kevin Bautista earlier said golf is allowed with social distancing rules in effect.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

In this June 2019 file photo, Sam Ryu returns to Federated States of Micronesia's Deavyn Etscheit during their boys U16 game in the 2019 North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

would get close to 90 percent of their full salaries. Meanwhile, baseball players and team owners have been bickering about theirs for weeks.

Nothing shows how far apart the two sides are more than their dueling proposals: Players were proposing a 114-game season (which owners rejected, and see as a non-starter.) Owners apparently are willing to impose a 50-game season on players if they can't find middle ground.

The issue remains salary—players maintain they're entitled to prorated salaries based

on a March agreement. The owners tried to push two different revenue models past players, who balked at taking any further pay cuts. Now, owners seem to be using a threat of a 50-game season to tell the players: "We're going to limit your salaries one way or another."

This is not the point in the column where I tell you which side to get behind. Likewise, this is not a everybody-come-together-for-the-good-of-the-fans column. But people on both sides better start to realize that the collateral damage of their fight could be more

dire than dollars.

Fact is, the sides engaged in this battle are fighting like a divorcing couple. Neither wants the other side to win. But like an ugly divorce, both sides are running the risk of burning down everything just to spite the people on the other side of the table. And that's a comparison rooted in some truth—the league and the union came into these negotiations with beef that's been boiling since the last collective bargaining agreement.

Watching the other sports leagues figure it out should

## FLASHBACK

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ship after overcoming a 2-6 deficit. Spencer Dickinson led the fightback, as he batted twice and also scored two runs in the pivotal bottom of the fifth inning. Angel Iguel, Aven Evangelista, Max Pangelinan, Mark Norita, Isaiah Teigita, and Tyrese Camacho delivered the six other runs for the Falcons, as they turned the tables on the Enforcers after five complete, 10-6.

The Falcons went on to preserve the lead and foil the Enforcers' upset bid, as Dickinson this time stepped up on defense, as he took over the mound from Camacho and yielded only four hits with no earned run.

The rest of the Falcons' defense hung tight, too, as it finished off the Enforcers in style with a double play at the top of the seventh and last inning. Iguel caught a fly ball from J.P. Celis at left field and then threw the ball to Teigita, who tagged out Chris Achas for the final out. Dickinson earlier struck out Sean Rauliman for the first out.

Dickinson, who now plays in a collegiate league in California, was later named Finals MVP, while Camacho took the regular season MVP award.



**SAIPAN TRIBUNE**  
In this file photo, Talaabwoh Falcons coaches and players huddle before returning to the field during their title game against the Kagman Enforcers in the Junior League Baseball division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

After their back-to-back titles in the Junior League, the Falcons, who won the 2015 crown against the IT&E Fielders, 3-2, extended their reign in the division in 2017. The Falcons were pitted against the Comets in the 2017 finals and cruised to an 8-2 triumph.

The following season, the Falcons and the Comets had a rematch and the latter finally ended the former's streak after an impressive 8-1 victory.

The 2018 season was the last time that the SLLB had a competition for Junior League, as only matches in the Minor

and Major divisions were held last year after the Oleai Sports Complex, which houses the "Tan Ko" baseball field, sustained significant damage due to Super Typhoon Yutu. Then this year, SLLB officials totally shelved its season because of the coronavirus pandemic.





NBA to propose  
22-team  
playoffs for  
restart  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Brees' anthem  
comments  
draw  
backlash

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Tennis events pushed back further



SAIPAN TRIBUNE  
In this file photo, Savita Sikkell hits back to Seiyul Hong during their girls U12 singles game in the 2019 DFS CNMI Junior Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**C**NMI junior tennis players won't be competing in off-island tournaments anytime soon, as two events have been pushed back anew due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association official Jeff Race, organizers of the North Pacific Regional Championships and the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships made changes on the schedule of their respective tournaments, as their organizations have yet to get clearance from either the government or sanctioning international federations to resume play amid this crisis.

Guam is this year's host of the NPRC and before the pandemic struck the world, the competition that also features players from Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia was slated for mid-June. The event was then moved for July 13 to 17, but has been pushed back further, between September and October.

Race added that there's a

possibility that the NPRC will eventually be canceled, depending on the development in the coronavirus pandemic. The NPRC is held annually to select players that will represent the North Pacific Team in the Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

The POJC, which has competitions in the U12, U14, and U16 age groups, brings together players from 18 of the 20 member-countries of the Oceania Tennis Federation to Fiji as they battle for team and individual honors. The North Pacific Team plays against the East (Cook Islands, Tonga, Norfolk Islands, Tahiti, and Samoa) and West (Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, American Samoa, and Papua New Guinea). New Caledonia, Tuvalu, and Nauru also send players in the POJC and they compete for the Nations Cup, which the CNMI has won twice (2017 and 2018).

The POJC is usually held between July and August, but was rescheduled from Oct. 15 to 24 last March. Now, the regional event has been moved to December.

The new schedule will be a challenge to players, according to Race since September and October are school months. The same conflict is seen for the POJC and sending representatives to the event in Fiji may also depend on the fate of the NPRC.

Race said that if the NPRC will be scrapped, the CNMI may send just its top players to the POJC. Organizers of the competition in Fiji are also looking at having a by invitation event.

Meanwhile, Race reminded the tennis community that the American Memorial Park courts are still closed. NMITA is still working with the Na-

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## Flashback: Falcons rally to keep title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

 On this day, four years ago, the Talaabwogh Falcons were just two innings away from falling down and losing their Junior League crown.

Then came an eight-run bottom of the fifth inning, bringing back the 2015 champions to business en route to a come-from-behind 10-7 win over the Kagman Enforcers in their finals showdown in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Falcons managed to steal the victory and earn their second straight Junior League champion-

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, the Talaabwogh Falcons' Spencer Dickinson, left, attempts to run to home plate during their title game against the Kagman Enforcers in the Junior League division of the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this file photo, Talaabwogh Falcons coaches and players celebrate their 3-peat after beating the Comets, 8-2, in the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.